Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group Opposes TV Marti at Dublin Meeting

PA1104024790 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] In the interests of an ongoing political dialogue and cooperation among countries, the foreign ministers of the EC and their Latin American colleagues in the Group of Rio met in Dublin, Ireland.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchard, who acted as the Group of Rio's coordinator, pointed out that within the framework of this meeting, the Group is opposed to the U.S. broadcasting of TV Marti, which interferes with Cuban television signals.

Apart from any considerations regarding the Cuban regime, the Venezuelan foreign minister said that the Group of Rio opposes the imposition of television broadcasts on the island's inhabitants without previous consultations with one of the sides involved.

In general, the Group of Rio is opposed to unilateral actions and is pursuing peace in the region through legal means. The Latin American countries that comprise this organization also reject the arbitrary boarding of ships on the high seas, said Foreign Minister Figueredo Planchard, commenting on the U.S. decision to intervene against ships suspected of transporting drugs.

The foreign minister also said that without any intent to intervene—because every country is entitled to choose its own path—Cuba should be more sensitive to the changes taking place in the rest of the world. When speaking to the press, Foreign Minister Figueredo said that the Latin American countries are seeking new paths to overcome their crises and achieve development.

[Begin Figueredo recording] What we are interested in—and I do not believe we will be competing with anyone—is large projects of scientific and technological importance, on which we are very willing to work with Europe. [end recording]

Cuba

Presence of U.S. Sub at Guantanamo Denounced

PA1004213890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, 10 Apr (EFE)—BASTION, the newspaper of the Cuban Armed Forces, today denounced the presence of a U.S. nuclear submarine in Guantanamo Bay, 900 km southeast of Havana.

In a report on its front page, the daily newspaper said that Border Brigade scouts saw the submarine as it entered the U.S. naval base in the territory of Guantanamo, the occupation of which is regarded as illegal by the Cuban Government.

The military source asserted that the U.S. submarine remained at the naval base for nine hours and then went out again toward the southern area of Guantanamo Bay.

The report pointed out that on 2 April and 25 August of last year, the Cuban border scouts noticed the arrival of nuclear-powered ships in the bay.

Last week, BASTION denounced an increase in warships anchored in Guantanamo with the arrival of the LST-1194, La Moure County tank-landing vessel. At the time, the Cuban Armed Forces spokesman asserted that the crew of the vessel consisted of 257 seamen, including 13 officers, and that it had the capacity to transport 400 troops and 500 tons of cargo, basically vehicles.

On 24 January, Cuban authorities accused the U.S. Administration of heightening tension in the area next to the island. Since then, and on a series of occasions, the Cuban Government has denounced both the proximity and arrival of new warships at the base in Guantanamo, including two destroyers of NATO naval units.

Spokesman Says Havana's U.S. Policy Unchanged

FL1004215690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2045 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Washington, DC, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The statements made by a high-level Cuban official on the need to normalize relations with the United States do not reflect a change in Havana's foreign policy. This was said today at the Cuban Interests Section Office here.

Ariel Ricardo, spokesman for the Cuban office, told NOTIMEX that Cuba maintains its same policy toward the United States and that this policy has been reasserted several times by President Fidel Castro.

A high-level official of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] said yesterday that Cuba (?wants to normalize) its diplomatic and economic relations with the United States for the purpose of promoting internal political change. This official stressed that economic cooperation with the United States, and not the U.S. efforts to overthrow Castro's regime, is what would inspire reform on the island.

Ricardo said it would have to be noted that those remarks attributed to an official in Havana would have to be looked on within the precise context in which they were made. The remarks could be personal views or opinions of those officials, asserted Ricardo. [passage omitted]

Further Comments on Policy

PA1104005990 Paris AFP in Spanish 2156 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Washington, 10 Apr (AFP)—Cuba "hopes to normalize its economic and diplomatic relations with the United States" by making internal "political changes" but rejects any CIA involvement "in solving the problem of U.S. influence" on the Caribbean island.

This was published by THE WASHINGTON TIMES in its 10 April edition, which carried statements made in Havana by a ranking leader in the Cuban Communist Party [PCC], Jorge Gomez Barata, deputy chief of the PCC's Department of Revolutionary Orientation, and other unidentified officials.

The publication caused "surprise" among Cuban sources.

The State Department as well as the Cuban Interests Section in Washington—which operates out of Czech diplomatic facilities—denied THE TIMES' report, reiterating that both countries' policies regarding any attempt to normalize relations "have not changed."

"The statements attributed by the newspaper to a ranking Cuban official could be the official's personal opinion. It is not, in any case, an official opinion. Our position has not changed," Cuban diplomatic spokesman Ariel Ricardo told AFP.

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler pointed out that "the U.S. policy (toward Cuba) is still clear" and unchanged.

"Our policy," she added, "is a reaction to the Cuban Government's unacceptable behavior, including its support of violent antidemocratic forces outside Cuba and its repression at home."

"As long as this behavior persists, relations between Cuba and the United States cannot improve," Tutwiler pointed out before insisting that, on the contrary, the U.S. policy "is to try to diplomatically isolate the Cuban Government," thereby fulfilling "our economic embargo and broadcasting—on TV Marti—unbiased information to the Cuban people."

Ariel Ricardo explained that there is no "new Cuban strategy" regarding the United States, and that Cuba has not changed its policy regarding the U.S. press either.

"Cuba has never closed its doors to the American press. However, its acceptance is not widespread," he explained.

Lately, especially following Fidel Castro's news conference last week on the subject of TV Marti, there seem to be more reports datelined in Havana, which will now increase due to a meeting of the joint Cuban-Soviet Economic Cooperation Commission, which will begin on 11 April in Cuba.

THE WASHINGTON POST published at the top of an inside page today that Cuba "now hopes to normalize" its relations with Washington by making "political changes in the island's communist laws."

The newspaper pointed out that, according to Cuban officials, "(Cuba's) resolve to make political changes only developed over the past few months."

Communist leader Jorge Gomez—the newspaper added—believes that "the problem of U.S. influence in Cuba cannot be resolved by the CIA, but it can be resolved by Sears (a large U.S. department store)," because a "flow of American businessmen and investors would obviously prompt political changes in Cuba."

"You would not necessarily see fundamental changes in our system, but it could have an effect. The United States could have a great deal of influence, greater influence in our lives," Gomez explained to THE WASHINGTON TIMES correspondent.

Meanwhile, THE BALTIMORE TIMES (Maryland), published an extensive report on the "unhappy" life of approximately 1,000 Cubans in Siberia, and the no less "unhappy" existence of 3,000 Soviet soldiers in Cuba along with 10,000 technicians and their families.

"The Soviet-Cuban alliance is beginning to show signs of strain," the headline states.

THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent in Havana asserts that relations between the two countries are marked by "ambivalence." His article includes serious criticisms by the Soviet mission of Castro and Cuban society, as well as harsh remarks by Cuban citizens regarding the visiting Soviets.

The U.S. correspondent quoted Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov as having said that the USSR "will not allow its Cuban friends to fall," and that Moscow will continue cooperating with the island.

Culture Minister on U.S. 'Propaganda Campaign'

PA1104040490 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart has said that the U.S. Government has barefacedly and cynically assumed the right to unleash, through an anti-Cuban television station, a propaganda campaign against the foundations of Cuban society.

In an extensive article published by the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR on its front page today, the Cuban minister stresses that the launching of broadcasts by the U.S. television station constitutes an absolutely cynical action that violates the island's sovereignty.

The Cuban cabinet minister says in his article that the problem is all the more serious if one considers the fact that the Washington government is trying to carry out this illegal action as part of a global policy characterized by the violation of international laws. Hart asserts that Cuba will not fail to resist and fight and that the Cuban people will always strive for victory.

TV Marti Jammed 3-10 Apr, Penetration Denied

FL1004135490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] From Tuesday, 3 April, to 10 April between 0345 and 0645, the enemy television station continued to broadcast from the military base on Cudjoe Key on the frequencies of channel 13. Two minutes passed from the time the signal was detected and confirmed to the time the interference device was activated and the signal was jammed. The jamming signal was maintained during each broadcast from the Intelsat and Spacenet satellite communications systems. The jamming equipment operated with the strength and coverage expected at this stage and alternate resources are ready in case the enemy applies other measures. The device that will be used to protect the territories of Matanzas and Pinar del Rio is being tested because the enemy signal has not been observed there. Measures to protect and defend our media have been perfected and decisions have been made regarding the steps that will be taken in later stages. The collection and evaluation of information continues.

During this time, the International Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunications Union rejected the Yankee broadcast because it failed to meet specific regulations of the agreements in force. Several organizations, groups, and people from different creeds and political backgrounds condemned the U.S. plan and demanded an end to the broadcasts.

As a logical part of the continuation of the systematic disinformation that is practiced in the United States on topics relating to Cuba, on 4 April, Florida Congressmen Dante Fascell and Lawrence Smith, contradicting several journalists from different countries who have observed the contrary, told the Washington media that the invading signal was penetrating 12 of 14 Cuban provinces. Just as in Bush's speech to the U.S. National Broadcasters' Association, the congressmen were trying to appease radio broadcasters, politicians, and other sectors that feel their interests are threatened, or are outraged that their country is being ridiculously dragged along by adventurers and irresponsible people.

Greek Communist Leader Condemns TV Marti

FL1004220190 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Kharilaos Florakis, secretary general of the Communist Party of Greece [KKE], has stated that the KKE vigorously condemns all forms of pressure or meddling in Cuban domestic affairs.

During an interview granted to PRENSA LATINA, Florakis, who also heads the Coalition of the Left and for Progress, the third major Greek political party, stressed Cuba's sovereign right to self-determination.

Referring to the increasing U.S. threats against the Cuban revolution, Florakis described the Spanish television transmission beamed by U.S. President George Bush's administration toward Cuba as a brutal intervention.

Florakis expressed his party's concern over the changes that are taking place in some Eastern European states, some of which are evidently heading toward capitalism.

Nuclear, Cultural Agreements Signed With India

FL1004220490 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] It has been officially announced that Cuba and India signed in New Delhi a document extending cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy for four years.

During a news conference, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who is heading an official Cuban delegation in New Delhi, said Cuba and India also signed cultural and sports cooperation agreements.

Malmierca stated that India has been training Cuban scientists in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and in the fields of agriculture and medicine, among other areas.

Malmierca stressed that the results of the new cooperation agreements in the various economic, technical, and scientific fields will benefit the two countries and that cooperation in other areas on which the two countries have been working—such as tourism, nuclear energy, science, culture, and sports—will be increased.

Castro Meets With Evangelical Leaders

FL1004190090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Apr 90

[First of two installments of President Fidel Castro's meeting with representatives of evangelical groups and the Jewish community in Havana on 2 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Castro] I have only to welcome you, and I do so with great sincerity and great pleasure. But we will have time to talk. Although I do not think there is enough time to talk about all our experiences. I would like, then, to give you the floor.

[Raul Suarez Ramos, president of the Cuban Ecumenical Council] We would like to express to you our joy and gratitude for the opportunity of having this meeting. Later on we can express other ideas, but it would be good to let brother Orestes, our executive secretary, tell you who we are, and who we represent.

[Orestes] This is quite a large group, Commander; there are 74 of us here. [passage omitted]

[Suarez] As you can see, this group of ours is heterogeneous. There is no....[rephrases] We cannot speak of a unanimous attitude toward the revolution. We cannot say that there is a greater or lesser understanding, but there is an element common to all of us which is solidarity with our people, and also our love for our Cuban roots, and I would say, a recognition of what the revolution has meant to our people.

Why are we here? Two or three months ago we conducted a survey of the different presidents and brothers who make up the Cuban Ecumenical Council because we felt the need, at a time like this, for the Cuban revolution as represented by you to know that the current situation of our country is not something distant from us, that we are not indifferent to it. The letter we sent to you referred to the fact that without a doubt—starting with the rectification process, continuing throughout the crisis in Eastern Europe; the aggressiveness of the U.S. Government toward the poor peoples, especially toward our people and their revolution, and likewise within this situation which you have described as a defining situation in which everyone is called upon to define his position—we also have observed that the revolution is also trying to define the believers and other aspects of life of our nation.

Recently in your visit to Brazil you came into contact with brothers of ours who are involved in the ecclesiastical base communities, and also with their theological thinking, liberation theology. In the call for the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, Comrade Raul Castro also mentioned the willingness of the revolution to work for national unity and also that the revolution should eliminate any kind of discrimination, however subtle it might be.

Moreover, our counterpart churches in the United States, Switzerland, Europe, and other places, want to hear our voice, and all this led us to write to you and present to you the need for a meeting with you, with the comrades of the party and the Cuban Government. We, the Cuban Christians, when we heard about your meeting with the brothers in Brazil, when we saw the first information that came out in GRANMA, we felt a slight concern. You gave us this open and frank opportunity to discuss this matter. When you referred explicity to this, you said, if in Cuba there were.... [interrupted by audience laughter]

[Castro] You are very right. [Words indistinct] I also say that you are very right. [applause] I should have thought of you all. [applause] I have to correct this.

[Suarez] I thought if I said this to you, you would have to [words indistinct].

[Castro] Yes, [words indistinct] very unjust, because in fact, look, people like you should be in the party, or would be in the party. But of course, the injustice is that I used the other phrase. I said: If we had people like you....[does not finish sentence] I committed an injustice; I do not know if it is in the Bible or wherever, but it says that you give fair pay to sinners. Where is that saying from? Is it from the Bible?

[Several people] No, no.

[Castro] It must be from a Christian, anyway.

[Suarez] We wanted, in this climate of [word indistinct], friendship, and openness, to say this because since before the revolution there have been brothers of ours, Christians, who have given everything for this revolution. And they called me, as president of the Council, and they said to me: Listen, what can we say about this? And we informed Comrade Daniel [not further identified] and other comrades about this, always clarifying that....[rephrases] I imagine the pressure you were under there: so many interviews, without sleeping, all of that. That is, there is no feeling....[rephrases] There is no resentment.

[Castro] That was not the mechanism. (?There was no) mechanism. You should get the idea of this blasted mechanism out of your head. And so I let myself be led by the attitude others have had. That is the problem. I was influenced by what they have had. So at that time, yesterday where....[rephrases] I might have made a mistake because I slept about 10 hours that day. [sentence as heard] [laughter] The mechanism is in another [as heard], with a little more contact and with a few more things. At that meeting we had, I talked a lot; I expressed my appreciation for the work they were doing, so it is that. You have done very well to say so. It was the first thing you had to say to me. [laughter]

[Suarez] So, Commander, I would also like to express to you what we are hoping for. We hope that the revolution will make the changes necessary for the development of our Cuban society, but that it will do so as you have proposed, from a revolutionary and socialist position; because from the essence of our evangelical, biblical faith, we understand and experience our faith better in a socialist society—a million times better than in a capitalist society. [applause] Our presence is an encouragement and an incentive for this position that you have defined very clearly to our people and to the world. We need changes, but these changes must be from a revolutionary position and without letting up on revolutionary leadership, so these changes will truly benefit our people.

We also wish, in this spirit of frankness, that the revolution will also be aware of the problems that at times have affected our brothers and that have limited us in serving our people. The concern about being party members has never arisen from us. There are different opinions on this, but we understand from a just principle of social justice, of political justice, that we can be members and that the revolution should take the revolutionary measures you mentioned. That is, the fact of believing in God for many of us does not limit us from accepting the party program and participating in this with our people.

But our highest aspiration, rather than being part of the political leadership, is to be of service to our people. That is where we want that whole issue, which has not been the revolution's policy and has not been understood—its thinking above all has not been understood by some middle-level cadres—that these limitations be eliminated and that we can give ourselves over completely to serving our people without any type of limitation.

This should not be because we are Christians for we do not want that, but rather, the same requirements should be applied to us as are applied to any other citizen of our country: human qualities, revolutionary qualities, dedication to the people, and loyalty to the revolution. Based on that, we should not be limited because of the aspect of our faith. That is our highest aspiration. Later some brothers of ours who disagree can also talk about this.

And finally, we would like to say to you that we as believers; because of the confidence we have in our God, because of the essence of our evangelical, biblical faith; we always think that the best is yet to come. This is a biblical, evangelical conviction and Marxists also have it: The best is always yet to come.

And in this sense we trust in the goodwill of the leaders of our revolution and especially the goodwill of their revolutionary, socialist position. On one occasion I said: I would betray my Christian and Cuban conscience if I did not say that we should thank God for the leader this revolution has had, for what he has meant to our people, but also for the contributions you have made in promoting the understanding of the relationship between Christians and Marxists in Latin America and the entire world, and here in our country.

You have insisted from the beginning on the unity of our people and that distinctions cannot be made between believers and nonbelievers. You have made a great contribution to Latin American theology, and to our theology also. We feel grateful for this. We trust in our people, and that our people will overcome all the difficulties and that we will continue moving forward.

Those were the things I wanted to say in the name of our brothers. The revolution should know that it can count on us during this period we are experiencing. Inside our temples and our churches, when we are holding our services to pray to God, our brothers pray for you, for God to give you wisdom; so you will be more and more just, more consistent with your revolutionary principles. And then when we finish our activities, the next day, on Monday morning when we are at our studies, work places, in all our activities; we continue our prayers to God in serving our people. For all this we feel this

afternoon very happy and very grateful to God and to you for being here, for this meeting we are having. [applause]

[Castro] I have been very touched by your words; the comrades who are present here have also been touched, surely. If there is something that is especially important in everything, it is honesty and sincerity. And they cannot be faked. Either one feels that or one does not. Not even the best actor in the world is capable of simulating sincerity. This sincerety can be seen in you, in everything. I was greeting you one by one and I heard many kind, generous words: God bless you, and, we pray for you. These remarkes were made with a lot of spontaneity, a lot of sincerity.

But among the prayers you make you have missed one, when you told me you prayed for me to have wisdom so I would be more and more just; that is not right, [words indistinct]. You should have added—so that he doesn't stick his delicate foot in his mouth. [laughter] We need so much wisdom, understanding, a sense of justice, and care, not to make mistakes! But it is an ill wind that blows no good to anyone. Where did that saying come from? [laughter] One is about fair payment for sinners, and the other is about an ill wind.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] Very good. Now let us give the floor to another comrade whom you will pick out. [passage omitted]

I would like a lot of people to hear things like what you are saying here, really. It would be wonderful. It would (?benefit) us a lot.

[Unidentified speaker] We are not afraid.

[Castro] Of course. He says you are not afraid, and I know you are not. It is impossible for whoever is here in this country at this time and with this revolution to be afraid. [laughter] Believe me. One could not find another tighter place right now, because we have almost become the enemy, as I was saying. We are the enemy. They give us much greater importance than we deserve, but the thing is that they give it to us. And that is the reality. [passage omitted]

[Reverend Joel Ajo] I have not brought a written, planned speech. I am going to speak to you in the name of the evangelical churches of Cuba. My name is Joel Ajo, I am a Methodist pastor and president of the Methodist Church at this time, and vice president of the Cuban Ecumenical Council. I am also from Holguin.

Really, the Cuban evangelical church has many names: Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Nazarenes, etc.; there is also one called Los Pinos Nuevos. And this means we are an evangelical church, but with many denominations inside this evangelical church and with many different ways of thinking. What has been said here is more or less what prevails in general within the church, after the moments of definition our country has experienced, in which...[rephrases] 1963, for example, or 1961, when the socialist nature of the revolution developed or was defined, many people left Cuba. But others of us decided to stay. In 1980, during Mariel, others left Cuba but many of us decided to stay. And up to today we have not thought about leaving our land; that is, we feel happy to be Cubans, we feel a part of the Cuban people, and we love the revolution. It began when we were very small but we also took part in it, carrying messages to the troops that were near the area where we lived, because we also served as couriers at that time, when we were only 15 or 16 years old.

So what happens today in our country comes very close to us. And we feel that as the evangelical church we have a beautiful task to carry out in our country. It is not political; it cannot be political because we are not politicians. But it is evangelical, in the style of Jesus Christ; it is to approach those who need something in order to give them something. In our case at this time, I would say that it is to approach you who lead our country to tell you that we are willing to continue supporting you, backing you, that you should take heart and continue moving forward because we see the work you are doing as just and good.

But this does not free us from also being able to say that there are things that we understand must be changed. I could not agree with Brother Bermudez when he said that we did not come here to ask for anything. Some people said that there, and I never said I was against that, but now I do want to say so. Because of the freedom that, shall we say, the revolution itself has taught us to have, and also because of the evangelical freedom of being able to be on the Cuban Ecumenical Council but not be in agreement with all the statements of the council present, I think that we do have to ask.

A young man stood up and said: We must speak in the name of our congregations, where there are brothers and sisters who have wanted to study in a field like, for example psychology, and have not been able to because it has been said that they are Christians. We have to talk in the name of people who on different occasions have wanted to become something, for example, hold an important position such a post in the People's Government, but it has been said: This guy is a Christian.

We believe that the main leader of our revolution should be aware of all this, as is Dr. Jose Felipe Carneado [head of the Religious Affairs Department of the Central Committee], because we have told him on various occasions about the problems we face. And I think that at this time of definition, when the evangelical church is saying we are staying in Cuba to continue to work for the good of our people and to support the revolution in all the just things it is doing, it is also the correct thing for us to say where we think we cannot go along with it.

For example, the church at this time wants to build some new churches because the congregations are growing, and the commander should know this, the leadership of our revolution should know this. We have....[rephrases]

It is the express interest of many of us, and the Ecumenical Council has echoed this, that if there is a TV Marti that wants to enter Cuba, why cannot we Christians also have access to Cuban television; and on Channel 6, Cuba Vision, begin to preach our evangelical messages based on noninterference in Cuba?

We think this is valid. We dream about this and we pray for this, hoping that some day neither TV Marti—which it seems will not come in and we hope it will not—nor the other that comes in, that you can hear, which is Radio Marti, will have to inform the Cuban people about what the Christian faith is; but rather that we ourselves may do this from our own concepts and our experiences as Cubans, children of the revolution, and as Cubans who share the revolution and support the revolution.

There are a great number of aspects which the church today is dreaming about and praying for, and we Christians are thinking about them in our base communities. Because also in the base communities, these actions, this process Otoniel [not further identified] was talking about is to have everyone living in the same nation and feeling for the same nation, be capable of joining together in everything that is done in this country for the good of the nation, and for the good of Cubans.

So, Commander, I would like to say to you in the name of the entire evangelical church that we hope you will keep these things very much in mind, because they are part of what we aspire in these days to carry forward together with the revolution's plans. And I would not like to leave everything on the note "we want to have" because that would mean that the revolution has done nothing. I would like at least to make a small acknowledgement of a concrete act. Perhaps Dr. Carneado has pointed out that change to you because he is looking at me like that.

At this time, thanks to the revolution, the Methodist Church has a home for the elderly in Marianao which is being backed 100 percent by the revolution in food, medicine, and equipment. It is a home that is only just now starting up. It has 12 beds. [corrects himself] It has 20 beds, but only 12 old people are there. We hope that it will be expanded, and that through this organization we can also support the revolution, serving the elderly. We are thinking a little, shall we say selfishly, regarding the elderly and the church. But Dr. Carneado knows that someone who is not from the church already has lived there, an elderly lady that I think you yourselves decided should go there, or you sent her.

I do not remember exactly how it was.

[Unidentified speaker] She is dead now.

[Ajo] She is dead now, right. But, well, in this opening up, of being able to say thank you, Fidel, and thank you to the revolution, we also have to acknowledge that part in which you have permitted us to carry out a social work. For us, it is the first one since the triumph of the revolution that we have carried out as the Methodist Church. And this tells us....[rephrases] With this we want to affirm, Commander, the faith we have in that as we are joining together in some areas such as health, we can also join together in others, and we are willing to meet the challenge on our part with the evangelical church in Cuba. Thank you. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Castro] I think that the essential things have been said, [passage indistinct]. What I am thinking about is the reasoning. It has been used in different things, what the worker said, not only the things that are acknowledged, the good things; but he set forth the faults, mistakes, deficiencies, and then I have to say some things because I am glad to have heard it all first, to be able to add some things on my account. [passage omitted]

[Hector Marquez of the Ecumenical Council] Some of us have had to adapt because of the pressing circumstances or an onerous responsibility, and sometimes it is difficult for us to simultaneously adapt to working in churches, congregations, in towns in the provinces in our country, and at the same time to have to travel, to go to and fro constantly across the Latin American continent. We have not always been able to meet with Christian groups of friends as is the case with Leonardo Boff, Frei Betto, [words indistinct], many of those who talked with you, but the opportunities we have had to enlighten conservative sectors of churches that have good intentions but are very badly informed. This could be seen in the same case of Brazil, because of the maneuvers of the transnational news companies.

We have had to explain situations that occur in our country, situations that sometimes are a little difficult for us to explain; for example, what happened to me personally in Angola in 1982. I met with our country's ambassador there at his request, and when he very nicely asked me how I had felt, I told him that frankly I felt badly because I had the opportunity to talk to thousands of people, believers, in Angola, who went to hear the services, and they said to me, surprised: Are there no Christian doctors in Cuba? Of course. Are there no Christian engineers in Cuba? Are there no Christian soldiers? Of course, I said. But you are the first Cuban Christian we have seen. So I expressed to the Cuban ambassador to Angola this concern we had, in 1982.

Also, regarding what Pastor (Juela) also stated in Brazil about 14 months ago, we were at a very well-attended news conference. Many of us were there. We spent more than an hour talking about all the positive elements of the Cuban revolution, all the social gains in the field of medicine, health, etc. Unfortunately, what the Brazilian newspapers took was the fact that we do not have access to the media, which is also a reality. They took that fact and they published it. I remember when I arrived in Cuba, Comrade Carneado called me for another reason and said to me: We have already seen your statements in Brazil. I asked: The real ones or the lies? Because I knew how the press had twisted and had used all that.

Also, at this time of dialogue with you and the leadership of the revolution, we are confident that many of these things perhaps cannot be changed overnight, but we should continue to make an effort on both sides as has been done recently, so that they may improve.

Now I would like, in the name of the denomination I head, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, which this year will complete 100 years of work in our country, it is celebrating its centennial....[changes thought] I have received very strong criticism from some Cubans who left and they say that we are inventing this centennial to play down the American missionaries, which is not true. This is something that has been proven historically.

But as an autonomous church we have the right to invite to our celebration whomever we want, and we want to...[rephrases] We know of your many concerns, but we want to invite you to the celebration of our centennial because you are the head of state of this country where we live; you are the president of this country, and as Cuban Presbyterians we invite you and we have the right to invite whomever we consider appropriate. Therefore, please accept our invitation to the ceremonies of our centennial, which will be in Santa Clara in July this year. [applause] [passage omitted]

More on Meeting

FL1004184890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Cuban television viewers were able to enjoy a singularly important event last night, and they can continue it today: the broadcast of the meeting between Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and evangelicals in our country, which took place on 2 April. In an exchange without protocol; frank, open, and sincere—as Fidel himself said—almost 100 representatives of the various Cuban evangelical denominations set forth to the highest representative of the government and party their points of view about the revolution and Christians.

These are realities which are not antagonistic, and in the special moments the country is experiencing today, harassed as never before by Yankee imperialism and stressed economically by a very mixed situation on the international level, unity is required.

But perhaps the most important thing was that above and beyond the stumbling blocks which at times have made behaviors that could converge and act together incomprehensible, there was the Christians' solidarity with and support for the revolution and Fidel. In this infinitely human and important dialogue, the Cuban Christians did not come to sanction or criticize, or even to ask. The Cuban Christians came to this meeting to express support, firmness, and patriotism, above and beyond conceptual issues and with a single faith: that we will become better day by day.

Christians of Baragua, as one of the pastors said—referring to the support that community gives to the Cuban revolution. For those who from politicized pulpits have striven to confuse, raising false barriers between believers and revolutionaries, between Christians and Marxists, the lesson is very clear. The community declared that it prayed for Fidel so he would be wise, so he would be just, so he would be in good health.

And a very great lesson came out of the meeting: Cuba is united; Cubans are together beyond creeds, united with their people along with their revolution, and with an olive-green pastor who has shown that he is always on the side of the poor of the earth.

Alarcon Calls for Priority Treatment of Namibia

FL1004140690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has said that the United Nations, like the international community, should give priority attention to Namibia so that it can develop its sovereignty after winning its independence. Alarcon granted an interview to PRENSA LATINA regarding the UN Security Council announcement stating that application of Resolution 435 on the independence of the young Namibian state is complete. Alarcon, who is also vice foreign minister, stressed that Namibia now requires good doses of international cooperation to build its economy and convert the political significance of independence into concrete actions for all its people.

Antigua and Barbuda

Customs Officials Involved in Arms Shipment

FL1004234390 Bridgetown CANA in English 2157 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 10, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird says customs officials were involved in the mysterious shipment of arms from Israel which transited here and ended up in the hands of a "most wanted" drugs trafficker in Colombia.

"What I can tell you now is that three young customs officers were obviously lured by dirty money into facilitating the transshipment of these arms through the port of Antigua," Bird told delegates to a two-day youth conference which ended on Tuesday [10 April].

He said the customs officers were being questioned by the police and that "it appears that others at a higher level may have been involved and I have taken the unusual step of immediately informing the American and British Embassies of all the details we have discovered so far."

Bird said from the documents which the special committee had seen indicated "that the Israeli Government

thought it was legitimately supplying military needs to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda."

"Antiguans and Barbudans everywhere have had to face a barrage of accusations that the country is a cesspool of corruption ...," he added.

Bird said the shipment of arms did little to improve the image of Antigua and Barbuda "when you take into account the fact that the narcotics traffickers have been murdering ministers of the Colombian Government and judges of that country's court."

"Equally disturbing is that these narcotic traffickers issued a contract for the death of the President of the United States, George Bush. Is it not disgusting that Antigua and Barbuda should be associated with such terrible events. In my view Antigua and Barbuda can leave no stone unturned in the effort to get to the bottom of this unwholesome situation," he added.

Meanwhile the Antigua Government issued a statement on Tuesday stating that a shipping agent has provided police with "an important lead in the unravelling of this case."

"On the international level the government is still awaiting a response from the Government of Israel on the diplomatic note sent on April 6 requesting clarification on the names of the persons who ordered the arms from Israel, and the identity of the person alleged to have received the shipment of arms."

The statement said Lawrence Barcella Jr., a lawyer with wide experience in the prosecution of people who have violated the Arms Export and Munitions Control Act in the United States, has been retained to assist in the investigation.

"Mr. Barcella has been retained to travel to Israel, Colombia and Panama to secure additional evidence to assist in a determination of this matter," the statement added.

Haiti

Political Leaders Criticize Government, AC

FL1004193590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Back to the news conference held this morning, 10 April, by Rockefeller Guerre [of the Union of Democratic Patriots, UPD] and Sylvan Jolibois [of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector]. As I said earlier, the main feelings of these two political leaders concerning the functioning of the government apparatus and the State Council are disappointment and confusion. Party leaders Guerre and Jolibois this morning went over with a fine-toothed comb the behavior of the members of the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] regarding the choice of members of the Government. They attacked the position of State Council President Louis E. Roy, whom they claim wants to set that institution up as a miniparliament, a position which Rockefeller Guerre finds strange, bizarre.

Furthermore, these two political leaders feel that what the AC should be doing is organizing a meeting between the Government and the political parties with a view to formulating a minimal program to better ensure the transition to democracy in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Despite their disappointment, these two political leaders say they support the current government headed by Ertha Pascal Trouillot. Sylvan Jolibois calls to the president's attention a certain number of demands. If these demands are not met, he intends to lead a democratic opposition to the new government.

[Begin Jolibois recording, in Creole] The lady must first set the government in order—that is, work hand in hand with the State Council so that together they may make up a single executive branch of the Government. [passage omitted] In fact, as far as we are concerned, we feel the State Council's offices should be in the palace, too.

We do not want her, like Avril, to say she has reinstated the Constitution with the exception of those articles incompatible with her government. We know her government is provisional, and as such, it is governed by the transitory dispositions of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

The government must warn the AC off. It must distance itself from the AC. The government must stop making appointments only upon the advice of the AC. It must stop taking orders from the AC. The government must realize it has to work in close collaboration with the State Council to get the country out of its current situation. [end recording]

We point out that Guerre and Jolibois had words which were not at all tender about certain media. Why? Simply because journalists write in their reports the principal political leaders, when referring to the members of the Group of 12 that constitutes the Assembly for Concerted Action.

Political Party Protests PDCH Accusations

FL1004195590 Port-au-Prince LE MATIN in French 10 Apr 90 No 22,929 pp 2, 3

[Excerpts] The federative party Liaison of the Democratic Forces vehemently protests the unfounded, malicious, and spiteful insinuations formulated against it by the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, authorities following the unexplained destruction of the old carcass of a car belonging to Reverend [Sylvio] Claude. The Liaison's national leadership wishes to state, for the edification of all, that the organization's statutes categorically condemn and reject the option of violence. The party is struggling peaceably, through democratic means, for social change in Haiti.

The party declines any and all responsibility for the gratuitous act consisting of destroying by fire the carcass of a vehicle belonging to Sylvio Claude that has been parked in front of the Liason's headquarters for more

than two years. The party thinks this affair is a true provocation, the goal of which is to terrorize the Liaison's members. [passage omitted]

It should be pointed out that no so-called democratic party, no so-called independent radio station, no human rights organization, and no union deemed it necessary to condemn these acts of barbarism committed against democratic organizations. Since 10 March, the members of the Liaison have on numerous occasions been aggressed by the members of Sylvio Claude's party, who dumped trash inside the Liaison headquarters and smeared the walls and ceiling with feces. The members of the Liaison were busy cleaning up their headquarters and that of the faculty [not further identified] with a view to occupying the premises soon. That is the work people are trying to block with this story of the vehicle set on fire. We protest this provocation, these manipulations, and this crooked wheeling and dealing of all kinds. We denounce before the masses the members of Sylvio Claude's headquarters, who brutally thrashed and tortured young Roosevelt Fragie, accusing him falsely. They were preparing to turn him into a human torch when the police, appearing quickly on the scene, saved this courageous militant, the pure and immaculate Fragie. We congratulate the police for intervening.

The Liaison's national leadership condemns all acts contrary to democracy. The Liaison is well-known as a party of democrats. Our members are not civilian auxiliaries. They carry no weapons and have no reason to attack other democrats and patriots. The Liaison is in favor of non-violence. In the name of the political pluralism of the Constitution, the federative party Liaison of the Democratic Forces has the right freely to function anywhere in Haiti within the limits of the law. Until further notice, the party's headquarters is and remains at 31, Capois Street. Long live democracy.

Daniel Narcisse, president; Max Berlus, vice-president; Claude Veillard, secretary general.

Jamaica

Party Gives Seaga 'Strong', 'Unanimous Support'

FL1104001690 Bridgetown CANA in English 0003 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 10, CANA—Opposition leader Edward Seaga of the Jamaica Labour Party received "strong and unanimous" support from the party's Central Executive at a special meeting on Sunday [8 April], according to a statement from the party.

The support for Seaga's leadership comes against the background of speculation in the media over the past weeks that factions in the JLP want him to step down following the party's poor performance in the March 6 local government elections. His dominant leadership style has also been cited for the problems within the party.

In a statement signed by the General Secretary Ryan Peralto the recent allegations against Seaga were noted. However, it said that the people calling for Seaga's removal were of marginal influence in the party.

Trinidad and Tobago

1991 Fishing Agreement With Barbados Approved

FL1004231590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 10, CANA—Barbadian fishermen will need to pay U.S. 800 dollars for a licence to fish in Trinidad and Tobago waters, according to details of a new fishing agreement released here on Tuesday [10 April]. The agreement, governing the 1991 fishing season, was worked out during negotiations between high-powered Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago Government teams in March, will be signed later this year.

The governments of both countries approved the preliminary agreement and legal experts from both countries have been preparing the formal document for signature.

Some details of the agreement were given to Tobago's House of Assembly (THA) and Tobagonian fishermen on Monday [9 April] by Food Production Minister Dr. Brinsely Samaroo. Samaroo told the THA that the agreement allowed 40 boats to have access to Tobago's waters from January 1, 1991. In return, the agreement provides guaranteed access for fish caught by Tobagonian fishermen to Barbados. In the past, Barbados did not import much fish from Tobago, but the agreement provides for Barbados to import 350 tonnes of fish caught by Tobago fishermen in 1991.

Samaroo said Trinidad and Tobago will continue to monitor the size of the fishing stock "so that any further agreement will be conditional on what our experts tell us."

Officials in Port of Spain told CANA on Tuesday that the final agreement reflects what they called a "serious compromise" between the often extreme Port of Spain and Bridgetown positions.

For example, the licence fees being sought had ranged from U.S. 200 dollars to U.S. 1,500 dollars with the two sides finally settling on U.S. 800 dollars per boat.

Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados have been holding talks for over a year on a fishing agreement.

* Hank Family Denials on Felix Miranda Case

90CA0007A Tijuana ZETA in Spanish
2-9 Mar 90 pp 60A-61A

[Article by Sergio Haro Cordero; for related reporting, see FBIS LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT of 5 Feb 90 (FBIS-LAT-90-024) pp 14-16]

[Text] "I have got just one question, Mr. Secretary." The reporter's voice echoed in the deep silence that suddenly filled the room in Mexicali where dozens of peasants thronged about Prof. Carlos Hank Gonzalez.

The reporter from a modest newspaper in the Mexicali Valley took advantage of the silence. "All I ask is a yes or no answer. Is it true that hidden on your ranch in the state of Mexico is the murderer of Tijuana journalist Hector 'Gato' Felix?" [Hector Felix Miranda, who signed his column "Felix, the Cat"]

Hank Gonzalez turned momentarily pale, and the silence grew deeper. Camilo Moreno, SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources] representative for Baja California, tried to intervene. "We will leave that for later," he stuttered.

The reporter stood his ground. "No, not later. I want an answer now, yes or no?" Hank Gonzalez regained his composure and nearly shouted. "No!"

"That is all. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary," the reporter replied.

The stigma on the Hank family persists. Barely a month ago, during his last trip to Mexicali, the SARH secretary told ZETA the linking of his son Jorge to a crime would not put a damper on his every visit to Baja California. The facts show otherwise.

And Jorge Hank Rhon, alleged to be involved in the slaying of ZETA's codirector, must have swallowed hard when a reporter from the Sonora daily EL IMPARCIAL accosted him. "Do you have an opinion about ZETA's recent lead story giving the whereabouts of Vera Palestina?" "No...!"

Carlos Hank Gonzalez, the influential politician who travels hither and yon, makes a mockery of political fashion and changes in administrations. This week, a month after his prior visit, he wound up his second swing of the year through Baja California on Tuesday 27 February.

And during nearly 8 hours' travel up and down the valley he listened to peasants voicing their concerns and complaints. He had a brief interview with the governor—"My dear governor!" He flew over Morelos Dam and other parts of the valley. Finally at a gathering of several peasant groups he summarized his answers. His replies were full of fine words, elaborate rhetoric, and enthusiasm. They also featured more promises to solve, if only verbally, the grave situation that prevails in rural Baja California.

Hats On

Last Tuesday morning the official plane carrying several top federal agricultural officials touched down almost on the dot at 9:30 at Rodolfo Sanchez Taboada Airport.

With the little door barely open and before anyone could get out, the hands of the visitors could be seen pulling elegant hats out of a large plastic bag.

Carlos Hank Gonzalez, a man with many former titles and at present secretary of agriculture and hydraulic resources, stepped out of the aircraft in a light colored shirt, leather jacket, and the now inevitable hat.

A reception committee was on hand for the occasion, and among those extending his greetings was Ernesto Ruffo. As he did so, the unmistakable figure of Jorge Hank Rhon stood out in the crowd. At the appropriate time he held out his right hand in greeting, then drew close enough for a kiss on his father's cheek. In contrast with the earlier trip, Jorge accompanied his father throughout his travels in the Mexicali Valley.

A bus awaited the delegation, but there was some confusion about Ruffo's going along. Even his closest aides were uncertain. Meanwhile, state officials took places on the bus. Ruffo and Hank climbed discretely aboard and held a brief conversation in the frontmost seat. The polarized glass in the forward window made observation of the two figures difficult. The situation in the countryside was not the only topic. They discussed the two-week-old strike at the racetrack. Hank, as owner of the multimillion dollar concession, listened as Ruffo explained how the state has respected the positions of both management and labor.

While the two talked alone other officials waited outside until Ruffo emerged unexpectedly and Hank bid him farewell with a "So long, my dear governor."

And some other state officials who had already taken places inside followed Ruffo out of the bus. Among them was Eduardo Krauss Coronel, attorney general of Baja California.

El Salvador

Official on Possibility of New FMLN Offensive

PA1104041790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0202 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Inocente Montano, Salvadoran deputy security minister, admitted today the possibility that the seizure of an arms shipment in Honduras on 7 April may mean that the Salvadoran guerrillas are planning a new military offensive.

According to Montano, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) may launch the offensive before Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta Chamorro assumes office on 25 April.

"We must not rule out the possibility that the Salvadoran terrorists might promote terrorist actions before the Sandinists relinquish power to create a climate of antagonism against the new government in Managua and demonstrate that they have strength," the military officer said.

According to the Salvadoran Armed Forces, the arms shipment seized by Honduran authorities on Saturday consists of 24 AK-47 rifles, 24 handles and 76 clips for those weapons, 80 rolls of "slow fuse" weighing over two kg each, and a "large quantity of materials to manufacture explosives."

The military material was being carried in a truck by Salvadorans Victor Emilio Dubon and Feliciano Garcia, who "were part of logistics unit," of the FMLN, according to a press communique released by the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) today.

Coprefa added that this FMLN "logistics unit" was in charge of "the arms smuggling to El Salvador."

On 8 April, another "large quantiity of medicine and surgical supplies" was seized in the Honduran Department of Copan, where the arms cargo had been discovered the day before, Coprefa reported.

"The Salvadoran Armed Forces again call on citizens to report all sorts of suspicious activities that may be carried out in their communities and thus avert possible terrorist actions by the FMLN," Coprefa said in a commnique released tonight.

The charges regarding the seizure of weapons and medicine have been raised at a time when the government and the FMLN are preparing to resume the process of dialogue under UN sponsorship, probably early next month.

The deputy security minister noted that the dialogue process is "ongoing" but added that situations like this "hinder the negotiations."

Montano made the statements to the press during the funeral of Otto Sorto Milla, son-in-law of the Salvadoran Air Force chief (General Rafael Villamariona) who died yesterday, 17 days after an attack in which he was seriously wounded and for which the guerrillas claimed credit.

Guatemala

* President Cerezo on Control of Inflation

90CA0012A Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 16 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Yesterday the president of the Republic, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, claimed that inflation would be curbed with a series of economic measures being adopted, such as the elimination of import tariffs. This will bring about a reduction in the prices of certain products, including the basic food basket, which will be affected.

The chief executive made this statement after having been queried by reporters about the rise in prices of certain products and the impasse that has occurred in the case of sugar. He was interviewed in one of the National Palace corridors while heading for his office.

He claimed that this would take some time, because the measures have just been implemented.

"We are currently debating the price policy because, actually, in most instances price controls don't work, and then there would be control over the rates for a very limited number of products, on which the monopolies or oligopolies can impose prices against the population's interests."

He added: "I tell you, frankly, prices are going to stabilize."

The president remarked that he had noted some interesting things in press reports, such as the fact that prices in Brazil are still rising incredibly, and the same thing is occurring in Argentina.

He observed that the price index for the world had been published in a magazine, showing that the average inflation in the industrialized countries stands at 10 percent, with prices rising. "Here, the rate is 15 percent; therefore, it must be reduced a little more, and we shall be on the correct path."

* Human Rights Office Reports Violations

90CA0012B Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Mar 90 p 59

[Text] The Human Rights Prosecutor's Office announced yesterday that extrajudicial deaths and disappearances were the two acts of violence most often reported during the first 2 months of 1990.

According to the Human Rights Prosecutors Office's registry department, 186 proceedings were opened this year based on personal charges, submitted in writing or by telephone, during January and February. It was

reported that 73 of the proceedings were opened officially, based on press reports or information from the National Police.

A report prepared by the press office indicates that, of all the charges submitted, 121 were sent to the penal assignation area, 38 to the civil area, and 27 to the family area.

The preliminary results of the investigations have indicated that 155 proceedings are being acted upon, 27 have been rejected, and four more have been cancelled.

It was noted that, during the first 2 months of 1990 there were 54 extrajudicial deaths, 52 disappearances, 23 threats and assaults, 16 illegal detentions, 12 cases of abuse of authority, and 39 cases classified as miscellaneous.

Finally, the press office reported that, during the first 2 months, 44 proceedings opened in the penal area during previous periods were resolved and entered in the records, while 66 proceedings in the civil branch and 52 in the family branch were also resolved.

* Guerillas Attack Military Outpost

90CA0012C Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Mar 90 p 8

[Text] Our correspondent reported that three soldiers killed and two seriously wounded was the toll of an attack perpetrated yesterday afternoon upon a military outpost in the vicinity of Los Encuentros, Solola, by a group of armed individuals.

The report indicates that the soldiers had set up a checkpoint 2 km from Los Encuentros, on the highway connecting with the western part of the country. Its purpose was to inspect the documents of vehicles and to ensure that the suburban buses were not carrying more passengers than were authorized.

The attackers were riding in a low-body truck and, upon passing the site of the military checkpoint, fired at the soldiers, who were left stretched out on the pavement.

Later, in that location, the unidentified men shot the tires of a Marquensita transport line suburban van from the west that was being driven around the capital city. According to reports, there were no injuries.

As for the attack, it was claimed to have been made on the No. 14 military zone, from which units made a search of the region late in the afternoon in an attempt to find those responsible for the criminal act.

* Army Issues Weapons to PAC

90CA0012D Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Yesterday morning, amid fanfare and modern music, the new members of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols [PAC] of Santa Maria de Jesus, Sacatepequez, were sworn in and given weapons to be used to defend themselves against the constant attacks by terrorist groups.

Starting very early, settlers from Santa Maria de Jesus appeared in that locality's central park. Some lined up with the Civil Patrols to be sworn in a few minutes later, thus becoming defenders of the peace in their native town, while others came merely to observe the formal ceremonies that were to take place.

Declarations such as, "My native land, we are here to defend you and not let you be bound by the chains of communism" were made by platoons of soldiers, most likely to heighten the spirits of the new patrol members. They revealed in their facial expressions both fear and lack of interest in the ceremonies being held around them.

Colonel De la Vega: 'The Guerrillas Will Be Exterminated Like Wild Animals'

Meanwhile, during the oath-taking, the second commander of the 302nd Military Base headquartered in Chimaltenango, Colonel Angel Humberto de la Vega, congratulated the patrol members on their courage and love of country. He said that only with this type of action against the terrorists would they succeed, sooner or later, in exterminating them like wild animals.

Despite those congratulations, however, fear and anxiety are always evident among the settlers, because no one was willing to answer any questions asked of them. Nevertheless, comments such as, "they (referring to the guerrillas) are watching us from that underbrush," "from now on more war will break out," and "we don't know what they want of us, since we are all poor," were heard among them. But when the reporters approached them, they dispersed, one by one.

In the meantime, opposing the peace being sought in the park with arms, inside the church of Santa Maria de Jesus many parishioners were beseeching the Almighty with prayers that no more confrontations and bloodshed would occur in their town.

The tension and fear that exist among the settlers are obvious from the deserted streets. And the possibility of more confrontations between Army forces (who keep the settlement of Santa Maria under guard, on foot and in small tanks, block by block) and subversive groups operating on the slopes of El Alto and Cucurucho hills is increasingly imminent.

Honduras

Army Finds Arms Shipment Headed for El Salvador

PA1004163990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 552 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Army reported today that it discovered an arms shipment "destined for the Salvadoran guerrillas and coming from Nicaragua."

According to preliminary official reports, the shipment, consisting of automatic AK-47 rifles and explosives, was being transported by two persons, presumably Hondurans, in a truck with a secret compartment.

The military source said that a military patrol intercepted the truck in the western Department of Copan when it was heading to El Salvador in an attempt to cross the border through "El Poy."

It was officially reported that since the weapons came from Nicaragua, the situation "will be reported to the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

One of the objectives of ONUCA, which has been in the region since December, is supervising and verifying compliance with the Central American peace agreements, which prohibit the clandestine arms shipments.

Dismantles FMLN Logistical Unit

PA1004212290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2031 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (DPA)—The Honduran Armed Forces reported today that they have dismantled in the national territory a logistics unit of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] that supplied guns, information, medicines, and surgical material to the rebels in Cuscatlan.

Carlos Quezada, spokesman for the Honduran Army, reported that Salvadoran guerrillas Victor Emilio Dubon Menivar and Feliciano Garcia Sorto, who have been FMLN members since 1980, were captured in the counterinsurgency operation.

Several Honduran women, described by the Honduran Armed Forces as "logistics assistants" to the Salvadoran guerrillas, were also detained.

According to the military report, the guerrillas' activities were discovered on 7 April, when a truck with guerrillas and a load of Soviet-made AK-47 automatic rifles was stopped in the country's west.

Later, a "security house" was discovered in El Higuito, Santa Rosa de Copan, from where medicines and surgical material were taken to the FMLN rebels.

Venezuelan Members of UN Peace Force Arrive

PA1104031990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2342 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The first 170 members of the Venezuelan "Antonio Nicolas Briceno" Battalion, which is part of the UN peace force, arrived in Tegucigalpa today. Tomorrow, the soldiers will move to the Honduran - Nicaraguan border, where they they will supervise the contras' demobilization and disarmament.

The soldiers arrived in three Venezuelan Air Force planes from the Palo Negro air base. They were welcomed by Spanish General Agustin Quesada, chief of the United Nations Observers Group for Central America [ONUCA].

Reviewing the troops, Gen. Quesada told the Venezuelans: "Your mission is exclusively military. You will be in charge of verifying, providing protection for, and supervising the demobilization."

He added: "You will collect the arms, equipment, materiel, and even the uniforms of the anti-Sandinists who agree to be demobilized."

The first operation of this kind is scheduled for 18 April, when the last contras remaining in the Yamales, Honduras, headquarters will surrender their weapons.

Quesada said he did not know "how many able combatants will be demobilized in Yamales." "There will not be many. I do know, however, if there are a considerable number of disabled and wounded there."

The Venezuelan troops, who are part of a contingent of approximately 700 men, will set up their headquarters at Las Trojes, a village on the border with Nicaragua, from where they will move to Yamales and other Honduran localities where the anti-Sandinists are.

These troops arrived wearing olive-green uniforms and brown berets, which today they will replace with the UN blue. They also carry Belgian-made FAL rifles, described as a "defensive weapon."

Quesada said the "Antonio Nicolas Briceno" Battalion will be "proud" of its mission of peace. He said the soldiers will only collect the arms of the contras who agree to be demobilized on a voluntary basis.

The general added: "Nothing will happen with the combatant who does not want to demobilize. That will be his problem and that of his country, not of ONUCA or the Venezuelan battalion."

In accordance with the plan designed by ONUCA, most of the battalion, the rest of which will arrive soon, will set up camp in Nicaraguan territory. There will be a small number in Honduran territory.

The battalion's mission has been described as "critical" because the ONUCA contingent in both countries has only performed administrative duties.

Nicaragua

Ortega Meets Soviet Official, Discusses Contras

PA1004163190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1158 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] President Daniel Ortega warned last night that extremists from the contras and the UNO [National Opposition Union] who are demanding the dismissal of the high-ranking officers of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], have harsh positions that hinder peace and harmony. Daniel made these statements after meeting with Viktor Komplektov, the Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs who arrived in Managua on 9 April. Ortega and Komplektov also analyzed relations between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We are talking with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Komplektov about relations between the USSR and the people and government of Nicaragua. We have received a message from the Soviet Government, from Comrade Gorbachev and Comrade Shevardnadze, praising the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] for the manner in which we have been coping with this very complex situation.

We have availed ourselves of this conversation to discuss the disarmament and demobilization of the contras. This is a point that worries all Nicaraguans, and it compels us to remain alert and make sure that the agreements ratified by the Central American presidents at Montelimar are implemented. In other words, the contras must be totally disarmed and demobilized by 25 April. Otherwise, we will always be threatened by the contras and the people will be forced to exercise their right to defend themselves.

Therefore, the minimum stability demanded by the country requires that the contras be demobilized, allowing the new government to begin its duties on 25 April.

We have discussed the importance of observing the agreements signed by the commission of the new government and by the commission I appointed, which is headed by General Humberto Ortega. Mrs. Chamorro appointed a commission which is headed by Mr Antonio Lacayo. These commissions signed an agreement on 27 March that was witnessed by Cardinal Obando y Bravo. However, this agreement is now being seriously challenged by extremists within the contras and UNO, and this is hindering the efforts toward peace and national reconciliation which all Nicaraguans are trying to promote.

This is very important, as it affects the local and international levels.

[Reporter] Mr. President: It seems that the contras are adopting a hard stand and that there are some UNO political council members who insist on the elimination of the EPS military ranks.

[Ortega] They are trying to disavow the agreements signed on 27 March. These agreements are in the best interest of all Nicaraguans who voted for the FSLN on 25 February, as well as all Nicaraguans who voted for UNO. Everyone voted for peace, and these agreements seek to disarm and put an end to the contras. These agreements call for observing our national Constitution and will lead to stability so that in the future we can solve the existing economic and social problems, but without the contras.

[Reporter] The UNO political council is saying that Antonio Lacayo is negotiating with the FSLN. It is said that the political council will disavow these agreements. On the one hand, they accept the protocol of transfer, but on the other hand, they reject it.

[Ortega] I understand that there are certain positions within the political council and the contras. Some contras are willing to lay down their weapons, but others are not. They are demanding the dismissals of Gen. Ortega and of Major General Joaquin Cuadra as a precondition for surrendering their weapons. These are only pretexts for justifying their hard-line position. This position is contrary to the spirit of peace, harmony, and national reconciliation that should prevail in Nicaragua.

There are people within the UNO and the UNO political council who have similar positions to these groups within the contras. In other words, there are extremists within the UNO and the contras. On the other hand, there are positions favoring peace and reconciliation. All Nicaraguans must defend these positions so that the agreements signed on 27 March can be observed. [end recording]

Demobilization of 8,000 Contras at 'Stalemate'

PA1004155290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1257 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The process of demobilizing and disarming approximately 8,000 contras, who remain active in Nicaragua, is at a standstill, constituting a danger for the Venezuelan soldiers of the UN peace force who will be arriving in a dangerous area.

"Our men cannot surrender their weapons in Nicaragua because right now those weapons are the only guarantee of their survival," contra Commander Maximinio Rodriguez ("Wilmer") has told ACAN-EFE.

"Wilmer," chief of the "2d Brigade," which operates in Nueva Segovia, Madriz, Esteli, Jinotega, and Matagalpa Departments, is one of the most influential figures among the contras.

"I will stay with my men until conditions allow demobilization to exist," said the 30-year-old commander, a member of the "hard-line" contra sector. According to "Wilmer," the demobilization must occur at the same time a definite cease-fire is being called and the Sandinist military structures are eliminated.

"Wilmer" also stressed that the new Nicaraguan Government and international organizations must "provide the demobilized individuals and their families the necessary resources for their survival and adaptation to

civilian life." "As of now, nothing is being done about this; therefore, we will remain defensive and armed in Nicaragua," the anti-Sandinist commander stressed.

This opinion, prevalent among the staff of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], was reiterated over the weekend to Violeta Chamorro's official delegates who were unable to achieve a demobilization agreement after three days of negotiations. The so-called special transition commission, made up of representatives of Chamorro and the contras, has confirmed that for now only 500 fighters and a large number of disabled individuals will be demobilized on 18 April in Yamales, the RN headquarters in Honduras.

The rest of the 5,000 fighters who were in Yamales in February will not be demobilized because in the past few weeks they have joined the task forces operating in several Nicaraguan departments. Under these circumstances, a complex and dangerous situation awaits the 170 Venezuelan "blue helmets" who are arriving in Tegucigalpa today. This group will be part of a 900-member battalion.

Official soures have said that a small part of the Venezuelan battalion will be stationed in Honduran territory while the rest will be in Nicaragua with the idea of establishing a border security cordon in an effort to separate Sandinists and contras and guarantee the cease-fire, which is still not being enforced. Being stationed between the two sides, the Venezuelans will have a dangerous mission in areas that are still mined.

The consensus of Honduran observers is that as long as the demobilization agreements are not implemented, the tension and armed belligerence will continue in this area of Central America, filled with victims of a war that refuses to end.

Contra Leader 'Franklin' Refuses To Turn in Arms

PA1104014990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0019 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Apr (AFP)—Israel Galeano, "Commander Franklin," the contras' highest ranking military leader, warned on Tuesday that he will not surrender his rifle and that he will "go deep into the mountains" with his troops to make an assessment of the Nicaraguan rebels' demobilization process.

"Franklin" made these remarks to foreign newsmen one day after contra commanders reported to delegates of Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta de Chamorro in Tegucigalpa that between 500 and 1,000 rebels who are still in Honduras will hand over their arms on 18 April.

The contra leaders said that the rest of the Nicaraguan Resistance's [RN] 18,000 men are in Nicaragua "willing to assemble in the security zones" set aside by the United Nations' Observers Group for Central America [ONUCA].

Although he had previously expressed support for the Toncontin demobilization accords signed in Tegucigalpa on 23 March between the RN and the president-elect's representatives, Galeano said on Tuesday: "From the mountains, armed and at the head of my troops, I will observe the demobilization of troops."

"I will not hand over my rifle," Franklin pointed out, in opposition to the accords reached by the RN and Chamorro's representatives, which stipulate that the contras will surrender their arms to ONUCA.

The rebel commander also accused both ONUCA and the International Commission for Support and Verification [CIAV] of "incompetence."

The commander demanded that the two organizations aid approximately 40,000 people, including the physically disabled, widows, and orphans who require humanitarian assistance. He said that $1.5 million are required for food every month alone.

The Central American presidents agreed in Nicaragua last week to destroy the arms of the contras, who are scheduled to demobilize on 20 April, five days before Chamorro assumes office as Nicaraguan president.

Contras Threaten Reprisals for EPS Offensive

PA1104021190 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] A spokesman for the internal front of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] said today that two days ago the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] began to violate the cease-fire by shelling towns in Chontales and Jinotega Departments as part of a large-scale military operation to dislodge rebel groups in the area.

At Km 197 in Villa Sandino jurisdiction, the EPS troops deployed the Miguel Angel Ortiz, German Pomares, Juan Gregorio Colindres, and Pablo Umanzor Battalions supported by two Soviet-made MI-25 helicopters in the areas of (Rillito), (Guelmancastillo), and in Boa Municipality up to 10 km southeast of (Pangua).

The rebel spokesman, Roger Blanco, said that this offensive was previously denounced by the RN urban commands.

He said that on 6 April, in the area of Amaka, located 3 km from Villa Sandino, a general combing operation by the EPS was detected. Many local peasants were pressured to give information to the Sandinist troops, who are commanded by the EPS General Staff in Juigalpa.

UNO [National Opposition Union] sympathizers Antonio Vasquez Tejeira, Juan Zeledon, and Gonzalo Vargas were threatened with death.

The RN spokesman said this afternoon that his organization has given the EPS 24 hours to suspend the military offensive launched against RN enclaves in the mountains of Jinotega and Chontales. If these violations of the Toncontin agreement and of the cease-fire are not

halted, RN urban commandos throughout the country will be activated, the spokesman said.

At present, the rebels have reported that EPS troops are shelling communities in the central part of Chontales and Jinotega to reduce the internal fronts' field of action, which the rebels say is a violation of the cease-fire.

The RN spokesman said by telephone: If the EPS does not stop the attack, we will begin to respond vigorously through our urban commandos throughout the country.

Joaquin Cuadra on Contra Demobilization

PA1004192890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez]

[Text] Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo has disclosed that the incoming and outgoing governments are on the verge of reaching an agreement through ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America] on the establishment of five security zones of between 500 and 600 square km each within which the "Blue Helmets" will receive the weapons of the counterrevolutionaries who demobilize.

Nevertheless, the demobilization process is threatened by counterrevolutionary groups operating in Region 5 that are intent on seizing certain towns and entrenching themselves there in order to be able to press for a negotiation with President-Elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Each security zone will have a camp or assembly area at which contras entering the zones will gather and there will also be a general headquarters for the ONUCA forces. The Blue Helmets will be stationed at several look-out points to prevent people from leaving and members of the constitutional army from entering the areas.

He explained that this area—in which a CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] delegation will also be present—must be close to some trunk highway to allow trucks to deliver food, civilian clothes, and the field infrastructure to be installed there.

The five security zones will be located as follows: one in Region 1, bordering on Region 6; two in Region 6; and the other two in Region 5; one south of the region and another one north of the highway to El Rama. [sentence as published]

The EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops will withdraw from the areas near the five zones to a distance described by Maj. Gen. Cuadra as "reasonable" so the contras who arrive there will feel that their safety is guaranteed.

The Blue Helmets will receive the arms and military supplies from each contra as he enters the zone. In other words, he points out, the disarmament will not be left pending until all counterrevolutionaries are gathered there. "Each contra will surrender his weapon as he comes in. The disarmament is automatic," he said.

After the contra turns in his arms and supplies, he receives a document from ONUCA stating that he has done so "and from that moment on he acquires the status of former member of the Nicaraguan Resistance and is inducted into the CIAV's structure."

The chief of the ONUCA forces and the commander of the battalion of Venezuelan troops who will disarm and keep watch over the contras in the security zones are already in Nicaragua.

The only forces missing are the troops (approximately 500 soldiers) whose transfer was authorized by the UN Security Council as well as by the Venezuelan president and Congress.

In addition to acting as mediator of agreements on the size and location of the security zones, ONUCA will monitor compliance with a cease-fire to be agreed upon by the irregular forces and the Army.

On 6 April, the incumbent and incoming governments will send to the contras through ONUCA a joint proposal on the size and location of the security zones, taking into account the general staff of the counterrevolutionary army's opinion, which was relayed on 3 April.

The contras' remarks "do not represent substantial changes, and their counterproposal is feasible and does not pose any problem because it refers to modifications to the size and location of the security zones," the high-ranking military officer said.

He will also propose to sign a verifiable cease-fire and establish a schedule for demobilization and relocation based on the deadlines established in Toncontin and Montelimar.

The schedule takes into consideration the time that both ONUCA and CIAV will be available. Through General Agustin Quesada and Hugo de Zela, respectively, both organizations have reported to Cuadra that they are virtually prepared to proceed with this historic operation.

"We are working to conclude the demobilization by 25 April, and although the schedule is tight, we think we can do it if we are really willing."

Cuadra recalled that there are currently in force a unilateral cease-fire announced by President Daniel Ortega and a unilateral announcement by the contras to abide by it. There is not, however, an agreement for a joint cease-fire. The only way to achieve this joint verifiable cease-fire "is a physical separation between the forces. It is impossible to conduct this verification at present because the forces are scattered."

Cuadra added: "We conceive a cease-fire as something closely associated with the security zones, because it is in these zones where ONUCA can verify the cease-fire."

For the chief of staff of the Nicaraguan Army, the security zones are strictly temporary and will last only as long as the demobilization takes place. "The contras will enter these zones only to be demobilized, not to set up camp."

The territory included in the five security zones is where the contras have operated in the past and where their main groups are now. Another feature of the security zones is that it is possible to reach them in all seasons. The zones should also have access to heliports and fuel depots.

Cuadra also said there will be a huge flow of traffic to these zones, which is why only a minimal infrastructure is required. The ONUCA troops will arrive in trucks with food, clothing, and all kinds of field equipment. There will also be a constant flow of CIAV personnel, and Cardinal Obando y Bravo will be going back and forth constantly.

Furthermore, there need not be many of these zones because the number of ONUCA personnel is not large. "There will be only a limited number of men, approximately 500, to collect arms and keep an eye on the area's camps."

Cuadra explained that "military and security aspects were taken into consideration so that the presence of large groups of counterrevolutionaries does not lead to dangerous, undesirable situations."

This is why no villages, cooperatives, or trunk highways connecting one department with another remain in the security zones. He added: "These security zones are not located in territories on which the defense of a military region might depend."

Maj. Gen. Cuadra said that the role of the Armed Forces, as stipulated in the Constitution, "is a responsibility that the EPS cannot neglect, regardless of the circumstances."

In general, he points out, the counterrevolutionaries have realized that all of their political space and the possibility of continuing the war have been exhausted. Although the counterrevolutionaries' organization is still consistent, they hold three different stands regarding demobilization.

An important sector (Cuadra does not say how many men) "is willing to demobilize as soon as possible, even if it does not immediately begin to benefit from the programs of the CIAV. A good-sized contingent wanted to demobilize and go home on Saturday."

Another sector is also willing to demobilize, "but is waiting for conditions to be created so it can be guaranteed various benefits. It wants the installation of the ONUCA and the CIAV and to be given land, seeds, and construction materials."

The third faction is the one that shows the greatest reticence to demobilize. "This is the most recalcitrant and most belligerent sector of the contras. It not only does not want to demobilize, but it has the intention of hindering the peaceful and orderly transition of the government so as to pressure the president-elect and force her to negotiate the political conditions for its demobilization."

Cuadra said this sector is represented, above all, by the groups that operate in Region Five, mainly those that are led by two brothers of "Franklin," the main military chief of the Nicaraguan Resistance army.

"We have learned of offensive military plans to be carried out prior to Mrs Violeta's inauguration," Cuadra disclosed. "They want to attack the main towns located along the highway to Rama, including Rama, Muelle de los Bueyes, La Esperanza, Muhan, La Cateada, and Villa Sandino."

Cuadra explained that unlike the attack that the contras launched against those same targets in 1987, this time "they want to seize those towns and remain there so as to obtain advantageous military positions and force the new government to negotiate."

Cuadra also charged that these contra groups loyal to "Franklin" plan to carry out terrorist actions in some cities "to draw attention and to begin to attack the new government that will take office on 25 April."

Maj. Gen. Cuadra said this final phase of the contra demobilization process "is taking place in a difficult and complex framework" which will not be free of problems.

"Not all contras will assume the same attitude toward their demobilization," he predicted. "Therefore, we must be prepared to handle whatever variants may arise. We must support and create the final conditions for the contras to demobilize and for us to contend with any unfortunate situation that may come up if any group of contras decides to rebel."

International conditions, particularly the most recent attitude of the United States and Honduras, are favorable to the demobilization. "There is strong pressure," he said, adding that at the internal level all political forces agree with an immediate demobilization of the contras.

He pointed out: "Above all, outgoing President Daniel Ortega and President-elect Violeta Chamorro are equally determined to demobilize the contras immediately; therefore, the conditions are in place no matter how you look at it."

Maj. Gen. Cuadra explained that up until before the Montelimar summit it had been established that ONUCA would receive and keep custody of the weapons but the final destination of the supplies was pending a decision by the five Central American presidents.

The heads of state decided in Montelimar that the weapons surrendered by the contras must be destroyed. The senior military officer viewed this as highly symbolic because it marks the beginning of the demilitarization of Central America.

He referred also to the $63 million of the $300-million aid package for Nicaragua currently under discussion in the United States, which is directly or indirectly linked to the demobilization of the contras.

This involves four allotments: a $32-million allotment through CIAV for the repatriation and relocation of 60,000 Nicaraguans, including contras and their families; a $10-million allocation to create emergency jobs because it is believed that the unemployment rate will climb to 27 percent when the contras demobilize; a $4-million medical assistance fund which will also cover former RN members; and a $15-million program for refugees who return to Nicaragua. In addition, $2 million are assigned to ONUCA.

As is known, ONUCA and CIAV are made up of UN and OAS officials. The relocation of contras stationed in Honduras will be handled by ONUCA and that of the contras in Nicaraguan territory by the OAS. Both groups will coordinate their work.

Finally, Cuadra contended that the new government must not only obtain funds to help contra victims of the war, but the Sandinist victims as well.

"This government must be a government of all Nicaraguans; therefore, it must assist all victims of the war without discrimination. Only the U.S. funds would be exclusively for the benefit of the contras. The National House for Support to Combatants and Sandinist War Cripples must not be affected," he said in conclusion.

Godoy Interviewed on New Government Plans

PA1004223990 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2323 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Interview with Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy Reyes by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Godoy] For some time now there has been interest in creating a sort of division or conflict between President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy. However, contrary to what these people want, my relations with the president-elect are the best. Therefore, their plans have been unsuccessful so far, and they will not be successful either.

I believe that deep inside—along with another campaign that has been drafted and implemented—those who are in power are interested in (?reducing) my role in the new government. They have said, and they have pointed it out several times in their newspapers and television and radio stations, that Virgilio Godoy is the most radical and extreme leader in the new government. They claim I follow a hard-line policy in the new government. Maybe they say this because they know I know them very well.

[Reporter] Are there any differences between the Nicaraguan vice president-elect and the president-elect's team of advisers?

[Godoy] There are some obvious differences between me and one of the advisers, but I maintain good relations with the rest of Mrs Chamorro's team of advisers.

[Reporter] Mr. Godoy, why do you think that the Sandinists want to keep their weapons after the transfer of power on 25 April?

[Godoy] Many people have been saying that power lies in weapons, and they are not wrong. The Sandinists want to carry out the threats they have been making for the past year that they would transfer over the government, but not power. In other words, they are willing to transfer over the public administration and economic problems so they are solved by the new government, but they are unwilling to turn over the actual power, which lies in the Armed Forces and in weapons themselves. They intend to keep this power for themselves.

Not only do they want to keep control of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and the Interior Ministry, but they have decided to distribute weapons among their followers and supporters. They want these civilians to be part of this power. They want to limit the actions of the new government.

[Reporter] What do you think will be the future of the Armed Forces in Nicaragua after 25 April, both the army and the police?

[Godoy] I believe, and I have said it clearly in the past, that the army must be reduced. It must be reduced in such a manner that it will be compatible with the resources and dimensions of our country. The current size of the army does not allow for progress to be made in the national economy. Social programs, such as health and education, cannot be implemented, let alone the army's programs. Therefore, the Armed Forces must be reduced drastically.

[Reporter] What will be your role as vice-president of Nicaragua beginning 25 April?

[Godoy] My role is reduced to what the law states. The constitution and some agreements that have been signed list the specific duties of the vice president. This means that the vice president simply takes the place of the president when the latter is absent. On the other hand, he is also the one in charge of handling matters of Central American economic integration and has a little to do with the Central American parliament when it begins to operate. In addition to these duties, the president has the constitutional power to ask the vice president to carry out certain missions, but this will depend on her. It is not her obligation, but a voluntary action.

Government Devalues Cordoba Twice in 10 Days

PA1004202490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1437 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist government devalued the Nicaraguan currency, the cordoba, for the second time in 10 days today, just 15 days from the inauguration of the new administration. The cordoba was devalued by 4.5 percent against the U.S. dollars.

The price of the U.S. dollar has now increased from 48,700 cordobas to 51,000 cordobas at the official rate, while in the authorized free market it remains at 60,000.

In the "black market," the price of the dollar ranges from 118,000 to 120,000 cordobas.

However, the depreciation of the Nicaraguan currency as compared to the U.S. dollar did not increase the price of a gallon of fuel (3.8 litres) that still sells for 86,500 cordobas ($1.84).

Although the Central Bank authorities did not announce the devaluation yesterday, most of the drivers were crowded in front of the gasoline stations to fill their tanks in the event the price of petroleum would increase.

BARRICADA Views Central American Summit

PA1004214190 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Apr 90 p 3

[First of two-part editorial: "The Presidential Summit: Final Deadline for the Contras"]

[Text] The Montelimar summit concluded, as was expected, without spectacular surprises. Its 17-point document contains key decisions regarding the solution of the contras' problem; however, it lacks the substantive elements to effectively put pressure in the direction of achieving democratization in the other Central American countries, especially El Salvador.

Most important is the double thrust—political and practical—with which the Central American presidents imbued their previous agreements for the execution of the contra's immediate demobilization.

The political pressure came from establishing a conclusive date, 25 April, for the contras' unconditional disarmament. This cleared up the ambiguity caused by the Toncontin agreement, which established a date to begin the demobilization process (20 April at latest) without establishing a definite date for its conclusion. Regarding that point, the Montelimar Declaration leaves no room for mistakes or whimsical interpretations: "The demobilization, in Nicaragua or other countries, must begin immediately and conclude at the latest on 25 April." Consequently, no excuse can justify the armed contras remaining at the ill-named "enclaves" after the new government takes office, because they would be violating the Central American presidents' mandate to which President-elect Violeta Chamorro categorically adhered yesterday.

Of even greater importance is that the presidents agreed to strengthen the mechanisms of disarmament and demobilization in practical terms to ensure that their political resolve will not be eluded. The Montelimar Declaration demands that the U.S. Government channel funds approved for the contras to the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], conditioning the use of the funds to the rebels' disarmament. In other words, only disarmed contras will receive the benefits of the U.S. aid package for their return to civilian life.

This position is in line with the spirit of a U.S. bill currently under discussion, according to which the $32 million requested for the contras must be solely channeled through the CIAV, a commission that was created under the mandate of the Central American presidents. Therefore, by stating that the CIAV will use those funds only for the contras who have surrendered their weapons to ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], the presidents have dramatically speeded up the demobilization process.

The application of this mechanism will thwart the contras' plan to continue to be armed for several months with U.S. aid—aid that they will not receive now. This mechanism will be an effective incentive so that there will be no armed contras after 25 April. Everything depends on the decision of President Bush and the U.S. Congress.

In the end, what is important is that if the contras persist in refusing to demobilize, the Central American presidents have closed off any opportunities the contras might have had for political maneuvering in the new government. This is a crucial guarantee for the country's future stability.

There are two other points on the contras in the Montelimar Declaration which must also be mentioned: the decision concerning the on-site destruction of the seized weapons and the demand for the immediate release of the people kidnapped by the contras. The first point embodies the first step towards the country's demilitarization, and the second point reiterates to thousands of families that we will continue to struggle even harder to demand justice for missing people, before and after 25 April.

Argentina

President Menem Interviewed on Yacyreta Project

PY1004154890 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Apr 90

["Exclusive" interview with President Carlos Saul Menem by reporter Daniel Mendoza in Buenos Aires; date not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Menem] One should not overlook the fact that the Argentine people, especially the Justicialist Movement, are most interested in this project. Within the government, we are however not only interested in continuing the Yacyreta project, but in investigating some irregularities that have been occurring for some time. [passage omitted]

We want the project to continue, but we are not willing to continue to allow the misuse or the embezzlement of funds, the management of which has been entrusted to the Argentine Government.

I have information based on facts concerning clearly illegal situations. I said earlier that the project was some sort of monument to corruption that has been ongoing for an extended period and which should be investigated. Thus, I was not making irresponsible charges, despite what a misguided deputy said.

The project will continue, of course. I only said that if a suspension became necessary we would discuss it with the Paraguayan side. It is necessary, however, to reprogram the project and to make the whole process much clearer. The project will, of course, continue. [passage omitted]

[Menem] The president of Paraguay called me....

[Mendoza, interrupting] So he was the one who called.

[Menem]...General Andres Rodriguez, who is also my friend, called to ask me if the reports on my remarks were accurate. I told him that they were accurate, but that my decision would not hurt Paraguay and would actually benefit both countries. Gen. Rodriguez also agreed that we must fight corruption on all fronts.

[Mendoza] According to the current provisions, if you dismiss an Argentine employee, his Paraguayan counterpart will automatically be eliminated...

[Menem, interrupting] No...

[Mendoza continues]...I believe Yacyreta has 1,400 employees [words indistinct].

[Menem] No, no, no. I do not believe it will be like that. The director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise for Argentina was replaced several times while his Paraguayan counterpart was not replaced. This is not a question of eliminating personnel. Some replacements might be ordered, but these replacements do not necessarily have to be matched by the Paraguayan side. In any case, this is not getting us to the bottom of this problem which is to investigate this project once and for all. Argentina is receiving funds from international organizations and we want our creditors to rest assured that these funds are being adequately and properly used. [passage omitted]

Menem Proposes Four as Supreme Court Members

PY1004150890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Apr (NA) — To completely fill the nine seats of the Supreme Court, President Menem tonight submitted the names of Mariano Cavagna Martinez, Julio Nazareno, Ricardo Levene Jr., and Rodolfo Barra, whose names and curriculum vitae will be submitted immediately to the Senate for approval.

This information was released at Government House by Justice Under Secretary Cesar Arias, who indicated that the Senate has approved the appointment of Julio Oyhanarte as a Supreme Court member.

Union Rights Suspended for Three Railway Unions

PY1004115090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Government suspended yesterday the union rights of three of the four railway unions as a reaction to the recent surprise strikes carried out by rail workers protesting the Justicialist administration privatizations scheme for the railways.

A Labour Ministry spokesman also disclosed that the government demanded the courts strip the La Fraternidad, the Signalmen and Senior Employees unions of their legal status.

La Fraternidad announced new strikes for today and "until the workers laid-off for participating in last week's protest are rehired."

Government Changes Names of Secretariats

PY1104004490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2311 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM)—The government has renamed the Media Undersecretariat. Its new name will be the Administration of Dissemination Services Undersecretariat. This organization will be headed by Carlos Guillermo Ocampo, who is replacing Julio Ricardo.

This decision was made in Decree 594, which establishes that this organization, which had been subordinate to the Media Secretariat, will now be under the jurisdiction of the Legal and Technical Secretariat headed by Raul Granillo Ocampo.

The Media Secretariat, headed by Fernando Niembro, will keep the General Dissemination Directorate, and

the General Press Directorate will continue to be under presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo.

The decree also established that the national radio broadcasting stations, Argentina Televisora Color (ATC), and TELAM will, from now on, be under the jurisdiction of the Legal and Technical Secretariat.

According to the decree, the Administration of Dissemination Services Undersecretariat will have the mission "of helping the legal and technical secretary to carry out a policy to insure an effective public information service."

It will also be the objective of this undersecretariat to administer the media "under the responsibility of the executive branch or its interests in enterprises of which it is a shareholder and which are related to information broadcasting."

According to the decree, such responsibilities will be in effect "as long as a decision on their final disposition is not made, or for as long as measures leading to their rationalization are not adopted."

Decree 594 also specifies that the Official Radiobroadcasting Service (SOR) will be placed under the Legal and Technical Secretariat.

Bolivia

IDB Grants Two Loans Totaling $69.2 Million

PY1104023690 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Montreal, Canada, 30 Mar (AFP)—On 30 March two loans totaling $69.2 million were granted to Bolivia through agreements signed by Bolivian Planning and Coordination Minister Enrique Garcia and IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias.

The signing ceremony took place in Montreal on the eve of the 31st annual IDB assembly in Montreal on 2-3 April.

A $51.2 million loan will be used by the Bolivian Central Bank to implement a comprehensive farm credit program.

Brazil

Economy Minister Cardoso de Mello Addresses IDB

PY1004133090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Apr 90 Economic Section p 7

["Text" of speech by Economy, Finance and Planning Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello to plenary session of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, on 2 April in Montreal]

[Text] I would like to congratulate you on your designation as the leader of this meeting which will guarantee the success of our work. I would also like to say thank you for the traditional Canadian hospitality in this noble city of Montreal.

At this time of profound transformations in Brazilian life, I have come to this forum to outline the new guidelines of the Brazilian economic policy and to emphasize the importance that the new Brazilian Government attaches to multilateral financial agencies.

It is significant that the IDB was the first contact that I, as economy minister, made with the international financial community.

On the one hand, the IDB promotes Latin American development. On the other, the IDB is going through a new phase with expanded prospects for financing projects and initiatives.

Brazil, which over the past few years has provided liquid assets to the IDB, now hopes to reverse this situation and receive the financial support it needs.

There are consequences to every lost opportunity. Our people are tired of setbacks. Foreign aid, which did not materialize in the past, is now essential.

The bank is familiar with the region, its resources have been increased, and it is a prestigious institution headed by Enrique Iglesias, a broad-minded person with a great Latin American spirit.

Nevertheless, the IDB must firmly support our internal efforts. For this it will need a dynamic and flexible attitude in responding to requests for financial aid, a financial policy that will allow a reduction in the cost of this aid, priorities that match national priorities, and clear and prompt support for the changes taking place.

In its capacity as one of the main IDB shareholders, Brazil intends, through its participation in the executive board and a permanent dialogue with the bank, its president, and the remaining member countries, to frankly and openly state what it expects from the IDB in the nineties.

One common objective for the IDB's members is to help the institution to grow and modernize itself. It must also preserve its essential characteristics, and its autonomous viewpoint on regional problems and how to solve them, taking national priorities into account.

Mr. President, at the beginning of the nineties the international economy is still reflecting the imbalances that characterized the eighties. Although the countries with high incomes show positive signs of gradual recovery and achievement, undeniably worrisome structural problems still persist overall.

In addition to the imbalances of the last 10 years, there is a new vision in the international economic picture, one which has not yet been clearly defined but which will

have a long-lasting influence. The world is going through a reorganization of work based on the ability to absorb and create technology. Looking at this new picture, it is clear that those who do not want to be left behind must make an effort to modernize their economies.

Brazil is one of the countries facing the challenges of modernization through its need to join the competitive world economy.

In the last 20 years the Brazilian economy has produced fluctuating signs of vitality and contraction. The efforts to strengthen national industry and increase infrastructure investments in the seventies was followed by a serious economic crisis throughout the eighties, which reached its critical point late in the decade.

The worsening of that situation demanded firm action to restore the Brazilian economy, to modernize the industrial sector, and to get Brazil back into the competitive world market. This is why President Fernando Collor implemented drastic measures aimed at economic reorganization and the recovery of public finances on his first day in office.

We are beginning a new stage which represents, above all, a change in the mentality and standards that govern national life. We have truly broken with the past.

It would be unrealistic to say that a simple description of the economic measures could give a precise idea of what is occurring in the country. After the initial period of adaptation to the new economic policies, the various sectors of the country are realizing that what is occurring is a process of transformation, that far beyond the simple economic adjustment there is a definition of new standards of behavior and social justice. The objective was to eliminate the imbalances that were impossible to live with, without running the risk of stagnation and threatening democratic life.

The essence of the government measures can be summarized in five main points: 1) A monetary reform with the main objective of fighting inflation and recovering state control over the national currency. 2) A statewide reform that includes the reorganization of public offices and the state's role in the economy. 3) A policy of fiscal adjustment to improve tax collection and to make it more just, thereby opening the way for a strict fight against the public deficit and toward carrying out fiscal justice. 4) An income policy aimed at increasing the purchasing power of salaries with realistic price adjustments. 5) A new industrial and commercial policy to increase growth and productivity, which will stimulate competition and lead toward a greater integration of the Brazilian economy with the international economy. I would like to make some brief comments on these points.

The high inflation rate that Brazilian society has had to live with over the past few years has created great distortions in economic activity. A system of currency indexation was implemented in Brazil. On one hand this produced a short-term reduction of the disturbing effects of monetary instability; on the other, it had a brutal effect on the distribution of wealth and the real value of salaries, and it made any economic calculations impossible. At the same time, the public sector's urgent need for financing made the state go out and obtain financial resources, but it also led to a system of paying high prices for these funds, which had a harmful effect. Instead of using the resources for productive investments, the people used them for the financial sector. This led to more and more speculation.

The monetary reform thus became indispensable and the essential tool to curb the inflationary spiral.

With the new economic plan we adopted a new currency—the cruzeiro—and substantially reduced the amount of money in circulation and the demand deposits at the public's disposal. A ceiling was established for individual withdrawals of investments and money deposited in saving accounts. The remaining money will be kept in the Central Bank for the next 18 months. After that it will be converted into cruzeiros in 12 installments and will be returned to its owners with updated interest rates and the corresponding adjustment for inflation, in a one-year term.

This unprecedented effort to control excessive liquidity was supported by a series of original initiatives to reorganize the state administration. Eleven organizations of the federal public administration were immediately dismantled. A deep-rooted reorganization of the government was implemented, one that eliminated and merged bodies into a central administration. A draft bill was submitted to Congress that regulates the transference of government property, that substantially reduces supplementary payments for additional assignments and fringe benefits granted to first and second level public servants, and that authorizes the auction of the federal government's active debt. In addition to these measures the government also implemented an audacious National Privatization Program, which represents approximate 2.2 percent of the GDP, that provides for the privatization of enterprises and sectors that were controlled by the state and that were, therefore, influenced by the limitations and the financial difficulties that the public sector was facing. We hope that this program will allow us to make these enterprises more competitive, to reduce the National Treasury debt linked to their maintenance, to free the state of investments that should not be made by the state and, thus, to make more room for private investments.

The fiscal reform is another basic issue of the economic plan, due to its impact on the public sector's finances, its redistributive nature, and its moralizing effect. It deals with three important issues: fiscal anonymity, taxation on activities that were not previously taxed, and increasing the tax burden on sectors where taxation was unreal and incompatible with Brazilian social patterns. This reform includes progressive taxes on large fortunes, taxes on financial operations, taxation on rural activities, and revokes a series of tax exemptions, including

those on capital gains obtained through operations on the stock exchange. The second goal is to improve the productivity of the fiscal apparatus and tax collection. The third goal is to effectively and strictly punish any crime against the government finances, whether committed by private economic agents or by the tax officer.

All the aforementioned measures would not achieve a stabilization without causing a deep recession had they not been accompanied by a new system to control prices and profits. The new policy that seeks to reconcile a fast and orderly reduction of inflation with growth in the purchasing power of workers' salaries, provides for a monthly ceiling for an automatic price adjustment and, at the same time, establishes the minimum limit for salary adjustments, which should always be higher than the inflation rate. The principle for free salary negotiations continues to be respected as long as the salary increases are higher than the aforementioned minimum limits. Special rules for the case of minimum salaries are established. In addition to the regular monthly adjustments, the minimum salary will have an automatic complementary adjustment, every three months, to allow a real five-percent salary increase.

Government, managers, and labor will work together to elaborate a staples' price-increase index every quarter to evaluate the real purchasing power of the minimum salary. The minimum salary will be adjusted whenever the accrued salary variation for the quarter is smaller that the staples' index. In this way we expect to maintain the purchasing power of minimum salaries.

This procedure is unheard of in Brazil. It also runs contrary to the theory that inflation can only be controlled with a restrictive salary policy. The Brazilian Government believes that the cost of the stabilization process should not fall on the shoulders of salary earners. The cost of controlling inflation should be paid by those sectors of society that obtained profits in the financial market with nonproductive activities and who ended up stimulating, directly or indirectly, the inflationary process, and hampering investments in productive activities.

The definition and implementation of a new industrial policy is the last of the series of proposals included in our economic program. This proposal seeks to obtain a progressive liberation of import restrictions, it seeks to encourage local business competition, it will grant strong support to national companies' technical training, it will try to maximize the rate of economic growth and productivity, it will encourage the modernization of industrial equipment, and it will promote the diversification of production. All of this will benefit Brazilian consumers, but it is a long term job. The task began with the government elimination of tax incentives for special import systems and the elimination of the authorization to operate Export Processing Zones. These authorizations do not make sense in a regime of tariff liberalizations such as the one we want to install in the country.

Mr. President, 15 days after the implementation of these economic measures the results are already obvious and encouraging. Brazilian society has not only expressed their wide agreement with the measures, it has also stated, at all levels, that they are ready to withstand the necessary sacrifices to help consolidate the new economic-social order. All citizens, without exception, will benefit from this new regime. I have maintained a continuous dialogue with the representatives of different social sectors and they have expressed encouragement and support. The same applies to those sectors which, in the short term, are the hardest hit. They have said they are convinced that the situation before 15 March could not have been maintained and that the country was drifting toward a climate of disorder that could have destroyed the hard-won progress of the past 40 years.

We need to permanently recover our economic stability. This is not only a government effort but involves entrepreneurs, workers, and the Brazilian society as a whole. The understanding that is being worked out between the executive branch and Congress, to approve the stabilization program, is just one indication that the effort encompasses all sectors of society.

It is obvious that we must adequately face our difficulties on the external front. What we will propose will be essential for the stabilization program and for recovering our economic growth.

The Brazilian Government has said it wants to restart negotiations with the international financial centers. If we did not do it so far it was because we are convinced that we have to first put our house in order. We reject the idea that prevailed in the recent past, which said that agreements with the foreign financing organizations should guide our decisions on domestic policies. The fact is that every time we followed that advice we acheived adverse results. The indebtedness persisted without progress in other fields and our domestic difficulties became worse. We will do the opposite this time.

We will begin negotiations with the international financing community n a short while. The Brazilian Government expects to explore different alternatives in these negotiations; the dialogue is open and we want to present proposals leading to permanent solutions, avoiding the marches and countermarches that have been characteristic of other agreements on the foreign debt. The role of creditor governments is, in this respect, essential. We recognize the progress in various recent international initiatives but we believe they should go further.

Mr. President, the Collor government's economic program, because of its harsh and encompassing nature is something new in Brazilian life. We will not find anything like it in our history. The government's courage and determination is commensurate with the severity of the moment. We will now wait to see if the international financial institutions and the international financial

community can produce an answer according to the sacrifices currently being made by Brazilian society.

Thank you very much.

Collor, Guimaraes 'Secretly' Agree on Plan

PY1004184690 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 90 p A-5

[Article by Janio de Freitas: "A Secret Agreement"]

[Text] One night early this week, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes met secretly with President Fernando Collor to conclude an agreement in which support for the provisional measures that are part of the government's program would be given in exchange for 200 federal administration posts in the states. Under the agreement, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] will only propose modifications that will be accepted by the government. (State federal posts are very useful for election purposes).

On 4 April, and under the guidance of Guimaraes, the PMDB has not adopted certain positions that it had announced it would take regarding, among others, the elimination of state enterprises and the limits imposed on enterprises over their financial investments. During an interview Guimaraes had stated that these types of measures needed substantial modifications, and that these modifications would be introduced by the PMDB.

When Guimaraes' new guidelines reached the sponsors of the bills, Senator Cid Saboia de Carvalho had already concluded his presentation regarding the elimination of state enterprises. Saboia de Calvalhoa had even announced his modifications over television, stating that he would not permit the elimination of such strategic enterprises as Petromisa [Petrobras Mining Corporation] nor the National Cooperative Loan Bank [Banco Nacional de Credito Cooperativo—BNCC]. He had to change his presentation otherwise he would have lost the sponsorship of the bill because his modifications were among those that Collor vetoed during his meeting with Guimaraes. To save face (although not very much) he was allowed to propose that the elimination of the BNCC be implemented through its absorption into the Bank of Brasil, where it will continue to promote cooperatives. Regarding the bill pertaining to the withdrawal limits of enterprises and private savings accounts, the government is satisfied with the new magic formulas of Economist Osmundo Reboucas, who is also a PMDB deputy, therefore there is nothing more to say.

Most, if not all, PMDB congressmen are going to be surprised when they hear that Guimaraes and Collor have met. Yesterday it was easy to see that even the most important PMDB congressmen were not informed by the leader of their party. It is true that for several of them, including some sponsors, the old election argument, which is always seductive, was used to enforce the new guidelines: Important economists and businessmen believe that the plan will fail and therefore the PMDB should not alter the plan and thus permit Collor to blame the PMDB for the plan's failure. Within the PMDB bloc there was some resistance to this argument.

Voters can still accuse the PMDB of having agreed to the plan, even if they cannot accuse them of being involved in its drafting.

Congress Approves Provisional Measure 154

PY1004141290 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Provisional Measure 154, which institutes a new system for readjusting prices and salaries, has been approved with very few modifications as the basic points of the government measure were taken into account.

According to this measure, on the 15th day of each month the government will set the inflation rate to be used to readjust prices and salaries.

In August, the government will submit a revised minimum salary structure to Congress for its approval. This revised salary will correct the erosion that has taken place because of the current economic plan.

According to the measure, the minimum salary will be readjusted by five percent of its real value during the next three-month period. During the following two-month period there will be a 6.09 percent readjustment. [passage omitted]

Chile

Aylwin Signs Draft Bill on Freedom of Expression

PY1004212090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] President Aylwin has signed a draft bill that abrogates the main rules and regulations that restrict freedom of expression. The ceremony took place at La Moneda Palace. Representatives of the National Press Association, the National Radio Association, media directors, students from journalism schools, and journalists who had been blackballed participated in the ceremony.

Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa highlighted the fact that freedom of expression is inherent in and inseparable from a democratic system.

[Begin Correa recording] Chile is experiencing a new stage in which regulations and institutions that characterize it as an exemplary democratic country will once again be instituted. The existence of a free press is most important for that goal. We want it to become a reality, and we will do everything we can to work for it. [end recording]

Correa stressed the importance of a press that is honest, responsible, and extremely principled.

President Aylwin then signed the draft bill that abrogates the main rules and regulations that restrict freedom of expression. After signing the bill, the president spoke briefly with the press.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I cannot conceive of democracy without complete freedom of information and opinion. [end recording]

Pinochet Makes 'Cordial' Visit to Congress

PY1104033690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The presence in Congress of Augusto Pinochet, commander in chief of the Army and former president, caused great excitement today. Pinochet visited Congress in Valparaiso following a luncheon invitation, made by the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, to the defense minister, under secretaries, and commanders of the different branches of the Armed Forces, Carabineros, and investigation department.

The luncheon was quite cordial, so much so that at the end legislators and guests posed for an historic picture. General Pinochet, who said at the beginning of the luncheon that he would not make any political declaration, was nevertheless approached by reporters at the end of the meeting.

[Begin Pinochet recording] It was a pleasant, amiable, sociable meeting. The meeting felt like a gathering of old friends, or friendly people. The mood was good. That is all. [end recording]

Pinochet did not emerge immediately. Christian Democratic Party Deputy Rodolfo Seguel pushed his way through the crowd of reporters to greet Gen. Pinochet and tell him that the country needs the Armed Forces' help to maintain the country's stability.

The meeting of the military commanders and legislators was very cordial and jovial, particularly when Senate President Gabriel Valdez talked jokingly with the officers about their past disagreements. Deputy Alberto Espina of National Renewal gave his opinion of the historic moment.

[Begin Espina recording] This is a sign that times are changing. When such different political adversaries can meet in a respectful way, without changing their personal opinions, and talk in a civilized manner in front of many young legislators, it can only mean that we are on the right path; that the country is advancing in the right direction. The meeting reinforces the optimism legislators have regarding the understanding with the Armed Forces. It is a clear indication that Chile no longer wants political violence, or violence coming from security organizations. We all have a commitment to life, freedom, and democracy. All Chileans have made this commitment. The fault for what happened in the past is the collective fault of Chilean society, as a whole. We will not achieve anything by trying to find out who threw the first stone. This dialogue shows that the country is on the right path. It is important that we all try to remove the obstacles that still remain. [end recording]

Chilean Air Force Commander Fernando Matthei, and Carabineros Commander Rodolfo Stange also agreed that the meeting was cordial and positive. [passage omitted]

120 Political Prisoners End Hunger Strike

PY1004145890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] More than 120 political prisoners have ended a hunger strike which they began more than 20 days ago in several Chilean prisons. Their decision was announced in a communique read by the political prisoners' Coordinating Board Representative (Sandra Traquila), during a news conference at the health unit of the former penitentiary on Pedro Montt Avenue.

The communique harshly criticizes the judicial branch, particularly the Supreme Court. According to the prisoners, the court is not qualified to continue hearing their cases.

Demetrio Hernandez, another representative of the political prisoners, reported that the hunger strike was ended at the request of many local and international organizations which have committed their support for the prisoners.

Hernandez added that the lifting of the hunger strike is conditioned to the steps taken in connection with the release of all prisoners, regardless of whether they were imprisoned because of their ideals or because of their involvement in crimes resulting in injuries or death.

Gendarmerie Director Cesar Pinochet, who attended the news conference, said that shortly before the prisoners decided to end the hunger strike, he ordered that all of them be taken to the prison hospital for a strict medical examination. [passage omitted]

Ambassadors Designated for Panama, Nicaragua

PY1104013690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Carlos Huneuus, Chilean Ambassador-designate to the FRG, has refused to refer to the Dignidad Settlement Issue before presenting his credentials in that country. The ambassador-designate, better known as the head of the (?CERC) survey company, met this morning met with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas.

Regarding his diplomatic mission, the Ambassador-designate said that he wants to put in practice the guidelines of the new foreign policy that were announced

by the president and the foreign minister. The new policy seeks to strengthen the Chilean position in the international community.

A Foreign Ministry source has reported that Chile has requested the approval of the designation of former lawmaker (Vilna Saavedra) as ambasador to Panama. This leads to the conclusion that Chile has tacitly recognized the Panamanian Government that was formed after the U.S. invasion which ousted dictator Noriega.

As for Nicaragua, the source said that a similar request has been channeled through the OAS, because the Chilean diplomatic mission in Managua remains closed. (Raul Illanes) will be the Chilean diplomatic representative in that country.

PDC Legislators Travel to Soviet Union

PY1104035290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] A delegation of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] traveled to the Soviet Union. The group will spend 12 days in Moscow. The delegation comprises PDC Adviser Jaime Castillo Velasco, Senator Arturo Frei Bolivar, Deputy Eugenio Ortega, and PDC Women's Department leader Raquel Hurtado.

The PDC leaders will participate in ceremonies commemorating the 120th anniversary of Lenin's birthday at the Communist Party Supreme Soviet building in Moscow.

Soviet Women's Delegation Pays Official Visit

PY0904191290 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Mar 90 p C 9

[Excerpt] The first Soviet delegation of female authorities to visit Chile, since the election of Patricio Alywin and the restoration of bilateral relations, is now in our country. The delegation will meet with social organizations.

The delegation includes Leningrad Mayor Tatiana Sarajova; Omerbaeva Saguindikovna, the deputy chief of the council of ministers of the Soviet Republic of Kazakh; and Lilia Stefanquina, the representative of the Soviet Women Committee [names and titles as published].

The delegation was invited by the Chilean Women's Movement. They met with Conchali Mayor Antonieta Saaon on 29 March. Following the meeting they briefed the press about the situation of Soviet women under perestroyka.

They stressed that, with the resumption of relations betwen Chile and the Soviet Union, contacts that have been frozen, since the Popular Unity government, have been resstablished. They added that this new stage will help to promote rapprochements between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Coverage of Barco's Visit to France, Belgium

PA1004231890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] President Virgilio Barco is currently on a working tour of many European countries. He was received in Strasbourg, France, by Enrique (Baron), French Government official and president of the European Parliament. They had an opportunity to meet and discuss aspects of the relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America, particularly Colombia.

Strasbourg is the seat of the European Parliament, which assembles 500 delegates from the 12 countries that comprise the European Council. President Barco met initially with Enrique (Baron) and later gave a speech before the plenum of the European Council on the economic and political situation in Colombia, and sociopolitical evolution of Europe and its influence on Latin America.

At this important European forum, Barco was applauded three times, and he received a standing ovation from the audience following his speech. After visiting Strasbourg, President Barco travelled to Paris, where he met with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Presidential Palace. In Paris, Mitterrand reiterated his government's decision to continue supporting the struggle being waged by the Colombian Government against narcotics trafficking, and he vowed to fight drug laundering activities and support the strengthening of the Colombian justice system.

Moreover, President Barco had a working meeting with Jacques Chirac, former prime minister and currently the mayor of Paris, and with Prime Minister Michelle Rocard. Also in Paris, Barco had the opportunity to talk to French leftist leaders as well as journalists from well-known media. President Barco granted an interview to the daily LIBERATION, the main leftist newspaper.

After completing his Paris agenda, President Virgilio Barco travelled to Brussels, Belgium, the seat of the European Community (EC). In Brussels, during his meeting with the president of the EC, Jacques Delors, it was announced that the EC will grant a $70 million aid package to Colombia for specific development projects.

As a result of the talks between President Barco and high-ranking officials of the EC, that body decided to change its policy toward Colombia. This will facilitate international cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. They also signed a $1.3 million dollar agreement to diversify crops in Caqueta Department.

After visiting Brussels, Barco [two-second break in reception] to complete the second part of his official activities, including a speech at the inaugural session of

the World Conference on Drugs. This ministerial level conference will begin on 9 April at the Queen Elizabeth II Convention Center.

This is the first conference of its kind, and it is reported that delegations from 112 countries will participate. President Barco devoted time on 7 and 8 April to prepare for his meetings with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Queen Elizabeth II, and the secretaries of state, as well as the speech that he will give on environmental protection and the Colombian indigenous population before the (Gaya) Foundation.

Barco: Extradition Not Only Solution

PA1004230890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1238 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] In remarks made prior to a news conference, Colombian President Virgilio Barco referred to what he described as a hot, sensitive subject both in Colombia and other countries. This subject is extradition. Barco said extradition is not the only way to combat drug traffickers and international drug trafficking. In addition, consumer countries side with the enemy by their own free will.

President Barco also emphasized the political stances of the 122 countries meeting here in the Queen Elizabeth II Center in London, as well as the other countries of the world. Extradition is not the only solution for this scourge of drug trafficking, Barco said.

[Begin Barco recording] [Words indistinct] although extradition is a useful international instrument allowing drug traffickers to be tried in the country where they perpetrated their crimes, extradition is not, by itself, sufficient to resolve the drug problem. For its solution, we must agree on multilateral actions and cover all aspects of the problem. It is essential to take additional social, political, and economic measures. This is all I will say here about this subject. [end recording]

Liberal Party Deputy Released by Guerrillas

PA1004143590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1233 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Liberal Party Deputy, Dario Quintero Patino, was released unharmed on 9 April after being held by the National Liberation Army [ELN] for 37 days. The deputy was released in the rural area of Rio de Oro Municipality, south of Del Cesar Department. Quintero Patino reportedly has a message from the guerrillas for the government.

Peru

Running Mate Denies Vargas Llosa's Withdrawal

PY1004193890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1812 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP)—Eduardo Orrego, candidate for first vice president on the presidential ticket led by author Mario Vargas Llosa, today stated that there will be a runoff election to determine who will be the new Peruvian president. Orrego thus denied rumors of Vargas Llosa's withdrawal from the runoff election. After meeting for two hours with Vargas Llosa and his campaign managers, Orrego said: "That subject was not discussed."

Earlier [words indistinct] confirmed, after meeting with Vargas Llosa this morning, that the novelist will not withdraw his candidacy. "Why should he withdraw his candidacy when he is going to win the runoff election?" the congressman asked.

Since yesterday, media organizations close to the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] have disseminated rumors about the possible withdrawal of Vargas Llosa's candidacy because he is considered to be "the primary loser in the 8 April election by not having obtained the people's majority support." [passage omitted]

APRA Will Not Support Vargas Llosa

PY1004215890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (EFE)—The APRA will decide whether to support Alberto Fujimori in the runoff elections after it thoroughly reviews Fujimori's government program, according to Luis Alva Castro, APRA's presidential candidate in the 8 April elections. Alva Castro ruled out any possibility of supporting author Mario Vargas Llosa, the presidential candidate of the Democratic Front (Fredemo), who obtained the largest number of votes, but not the absolute majority needed to win the first round of elections. However, Alva Castro urged Vargas Llosa not to shirk a runoff election.

The APRA is a responsible party and it will decide whether to support the candidate of Change 90 in due time, said Alva Castro, who came in third in the elections, receiving 19 percent of the votes.

Senate President Humberto Carranza, an APRA member, yesterday said that his party will support Fujimori in the runoff elections.

"That is a personal opinion; as a party we have not made any decision yet," Alva Castro stated in a news conference. He added that according to the Constitution, Vargas Llosa cannot give up, and that he is compelled to participate in the runoff with Fujimori to let the people decide who the next Peruvian president will be.

"I strongly urge Mario Vargas Llosa not to withdraw. He must stay because the Constitution provides for a runoff election," Alva Castro said.

The rumors that Vargas Llosa will withdraw from the race surfaced on 8 April, when unofficial results indicated that he had not obtained an absolute majority, although at that time Fernando Belaunde Terry, former president and the leader of Popular Action, one of the

parties that make up Fredemo, denied the rumors. Fredemo vice presidential candidate Eduardo Orrego also denied that his organization is planning to abandon the race.

Alva Castro said that in 1985, when current President Alan Garcia apparently failed to obtain an absolute majority in the first round, he was still elected because "once null and blank votes were discounted, he had more than 51 percent of the remaining votes. Thus, his case was completely different. Now, neither of the two candidates (Vargas Llosa and Fujimori), has more than 51 percent, even if null and blank votes are discounted," Alva Castro stated.

Today Fujimori went to Vargas Llosa's residence, where he stayed for 15 minutes. It is not known what the two men talked about.

On Sunday, Mario Vargas Llosa invited Fujimori to hold talks about an agreement that would eliminate the need for runoff elections, but the Change 90 candidate later said that he would not make agreements with any political party.

Candidate Fujimori's Background Detailed

PY1004233690 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (EFE)—In little less than a week Alberto Fujimori has moved from a defensive position regarding milk production at Lima Agriculture University, where he was the university rector, to the position of samurai of Peruvian politics. Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, who arrived in Peru 60 years ago, will face the prestigious author Mario Vargas Llosa in a runoff election for the Presidency after his and Vargas Llosa's victory in the first round yesterday.

As a result of his victory, the Peruvian media, which did not pay him much prior attention, now hounds him. He obliges with Oriental patience. His smiling Asian face appears today on the front pages of most Peruvian newspapers. His moderate talk has been heard on all television channels over the past few hours.

Fujimori is an agricultural engineer. He wants to celebrate his birthday at the presidential palace and will turn 52 on the very day of the presidential inauguration, 28 July. There are other coincidences in his life: His second name is "Kenya" which in Japanese means "the second (child)," and he came in second in yesterday's presidential elections, the first time he was ever involved in politics.

Fujimori's sudden ascension in the Peruvian political arena was due to the voters' weariness with old political faces and to their search for a change that might give Peru a chance to solve its acute economic crisis. Fujimori's humble image is in contrast with the arrogance of other politicians; his moderate tone contrasts with the radicalism of his rivals. Essentially, however, he has been able to exploit his ambiguous economic program for a gradual tranformation and to compare it advantageously to Vargas Llosa's economic shock proposal.

He is not annoyed when called "the little Chinese" or "the little Japanese" because he considers that "a show of people's affection." The Peruvian people became used to see him campaigning in the streets and public squares mounted on a tractor that was suitably named the "Fujimobile." The campaign cost him another tractor, one of his two houses, and his life savings. Despite all that, his campaign was "extremely austere" compared with the expensive propaganda campaign staged by most of his rivals.

Fujimori is a "black belt" in karate and has been photographed wearing the clothing of a samurai warrior. The Japanese colony, however, considers him a representative of the local "racial mixture" [criollismo] more than a genuine representative of the oriental culture.

The Japanese Embassy in Lima, also confounded by "the Fujimori phenomenon," has maintained a prudent silence.

Alberto Kenya Fujimori is the son of Noachi, who is deceased, and Mutsue Fujimori. They came to Peru 60 years ago from the Japanese city of Kumamoto. His parents first set up a tire shop and then a flower shop. Finally they moved to a farm, where their son Alberto was raised and where he discovered his vocation.

He received his primary and secondary education at public schools. He was always first at the university. He was first in the competition for admission, and he graduated at the top of his class in 1960 from the Agriculture University of Lima.

Fujimori took graduate courses at a U.S. university in Wisconsin and at a French university in Strasbourg. He has "honorary doctorate" degrees from the Belgian university at Gembloux and the San Martin de Porres University in Peru. He was rector of the Agriculture University between 1984 and 1989 and presided over the National Rectors Assembly. This was the highest title he ever held.

Those seeking to hurt an adversary during the fierce Peruvian electoral campaign in the last few weeks could find only one dark page in his past: The production of the Agriculture University milking cows dropped sharply during his tenure as rector. Most Peruvians, however, including his adversaries, recognize that Fujimori is an "honest" man, a rare qualification among local politicians.

He married civil engineer Susana Higushi and has four children: Keiko Sofia, 14; Hiro Alberto, 13; Sachi Marcela, 11; and Kenji Gerardo, 9.

His official biography says that Fujimori speaks five languages (Spanish, English, Japanese, French, and German). He has visited four continents and enjoys

"cebiche," a typical Peruvian dish made out with fish seasoned with lemon. He also enjoys cooking his own stews.

Uruguay

Defense Minister on National Defense Doctrine

PY1004160890 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 5 April 90 p 8

[Excerpts] On 4 April Defense Minister Mariano Brito indicated that there will be no reduction in the number of men that make up the Armed Forces following the cut in public expenditure. Such a reduction can only be done through Congress.

Brito also revealed that his ministry is drafting a document to define a national defense doctrine at the special request of President Luis Alberto Lacalle.

The minister indicated that the ministry's technicians are outlining the substance of that doctrine, "basing themselves on the Constitution and the laws, which make up our basic foundations," but he did not want to establish the date on which this initiative will be submitted to the political parties. [passage omitted]

He was also asked about the measures that his ministry will adopt within the framework of the government's policy to reduce expenditures, and also about the number of men in the Armed Forces and whether their number will be reduced.

"Both questions are related, but it does not necessarily mean that there will be a reduction in manpower in order to reduce expenditure," the minister stated.

He added that "during the previous government Congress ordered a reduction of men within the Armed Forces. At this time there is no norm for reducing the Armed Forces, therefore any reduction will be due to resignations and natural causes, and not through a premeditated reduction." [passage omitted]

Communique on Mexican, Panamanian Dispute

PY1004152290 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 5 Apr 90 p 6

[Excerpts] On 4 April, the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry issued a communique in support of Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solanas, who had been the center of a recent and harsh attack by the Panamanian Government of Guillermo Endara.

The Foreign Ministry states that "in view of circulating press reports" regarding a severe disagreement between those two countries following a statement on the Panamanian situation by Solanas at the end of the Rio de Janeiro Group meeting on 30 March, " the statement was made by the group's spokesman and it only highlighted points of the communique." [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell indicated that Solanas' comment was made without epithets, "it being a very moderate explanation of what had been debated."